■ WORLD/ A10

British playwright Harold Pinter wins Nobel Prize for Literature

■ SUPER / D2

Get a dose of Pinoy comic book's awesome creativity

■ NEWS/ A2

Mayors of 6 Bulacan towns hail relocation of NorthRail squatters

■ NEWS/ A2

Retired generals disown pro-GMA full-page advertisement

DOH dares drug firms to 'pirate' bird flu vaccine

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH HAS URGED local drug manufacturers to reproduce a certain flu vaccine in preparation for a possible outbreak of the deadly bird flu virus in the country.

"We will welcome any manufacturer of the

DOH DARES/ A17

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

James Bond's spy agency not so secret anymore

LONDON—AS OF LAST Thursday, Her Majesty's Secret Service was no longer as secret as it had been.

At midnight, Britain's Secret Intelligence Service, or, MI6—the equivalent of

JAMES/ A17

PARA SA MGA GUSTONG MAG-JAMES BOND!

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Saturday, October 15, 2005 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 19 / No. 309 P18
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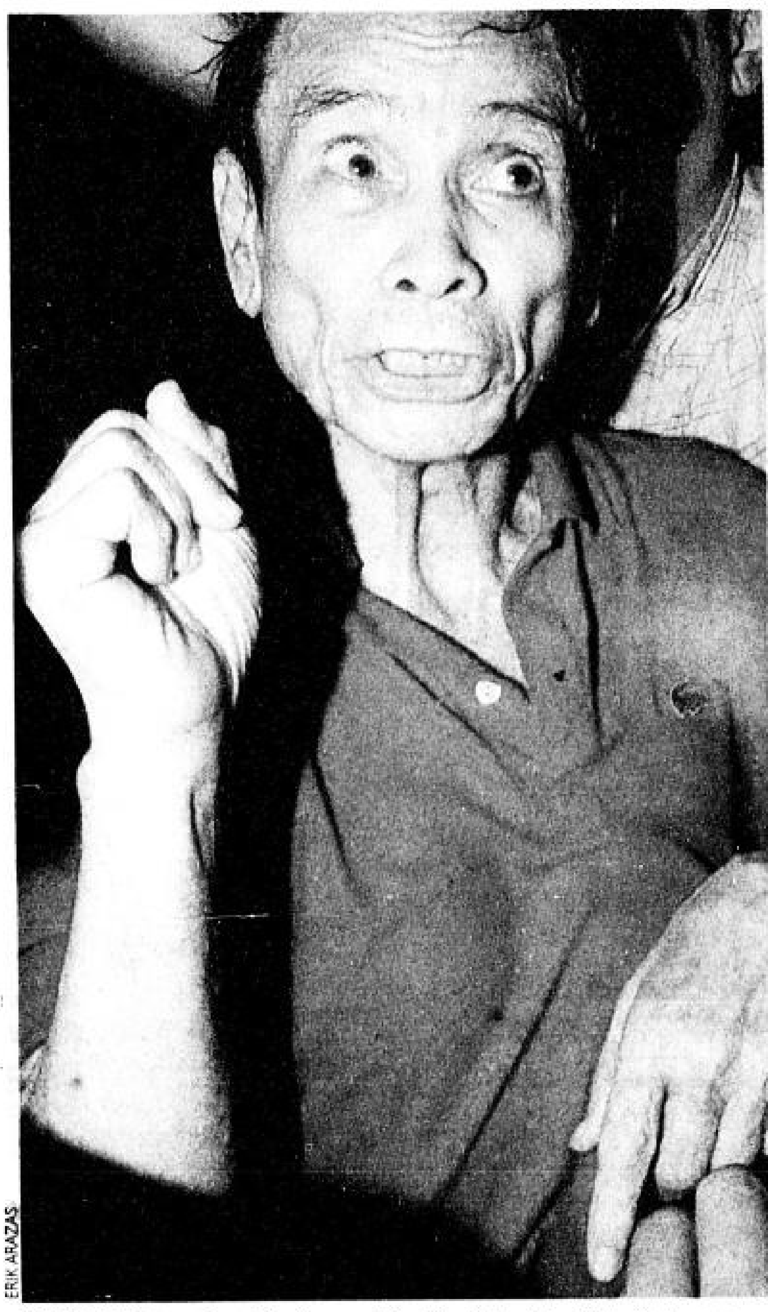
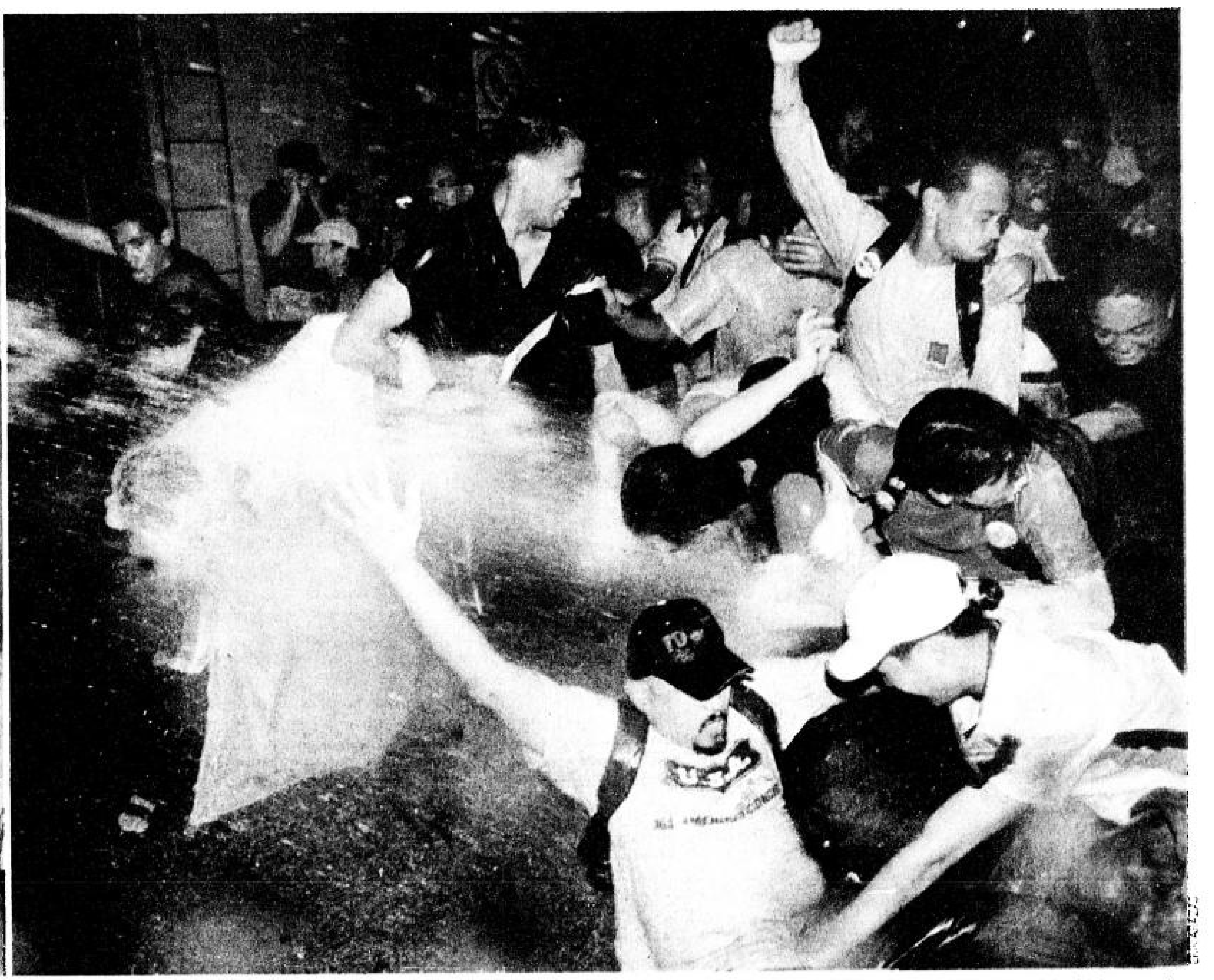
Water blast stops rally



ERIK ARAZAS

DRENCHED to the skin, former Vice President Teofisto Guingona still lets out a handful of fiery words directed at the Arroyo administration.



CAN YOU DEFEND THIS AT PLAZA MIRANDA? Marchers peaceably assemble for a religious procession. Though led by 3 activist bishops and opposition stalwarts, it is a prayerful, singing group. But when they reach San Sebastian College from Plaza Miranda, the antiriot cops wash them out of the way. Fr. Robert Reyes is the drowning figure at extreme left.

Guingona, bishops, priests 'cannonized' in prayer rally

By Christian V. Esguerra and Margaux C. Ortiz

ONE OF THEM WAS THE COUNTRY'S FORMER vice president, aged 77. Three others were Roman Catholic bishops, one of them aged 80 and the two others in their 60s.

But not even the sight of Teofisto Guingona, the three aging prelates, and two images of the Virgin Mary held aloft during the protest procession stopped antiriot troops from blasting them with water cannons last night.

Dozens of protesters were hurt, Reuters reported.

"This is in complete violation of the rights of the people. This is a prayer rally," a soaked Guingona said after he and the others were driven back by water bombardment.

"We were peaceful. There was no reason to disperse us," said Guingona, who fell to the ground in the initial confrontation after about 50 policemen pushed the marchers back with their riot shields.

Until the police forcibly broke them up, the 700 protesters had been marching peacefully, praying the Rosary and singing religious and nationalist songs. They also bore the status of Our Lady of Fatima and the Our Lady of Sorrows.

"They're crushing democracy ... This is martial law," said Sen. Jamby Madrigal, among those

WATER/ A18

Palace sows fear factor, says Joker

By Juliet Labog-Javellana, Michael Lim Ubac, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and TJ Burgonio

A VETERAN LAWMAKER WHO had fought and felt the harshness of martial law charged yesterday that administration officials were fomenting fear by talking about the possibility of emergency rule, and accused President Macapagal-Arroyo of "irresponsible adventurism."

"All the noise about martial law, emergency rule, like takeovers [of key business sectors] are what it is—noise, period," Sen. Joker Arroyo said in a phone interview.

"The administration knows that but relishes the reaction of fear," Arroyo said.

The administration senator, who often sounds like a pillar of the opposition, said the present Constitution, "borne out of the oppression

PALACE/ A17

Death of Dapdap trees puzzles experts

By Blanche S. Rivera

A TINY NEW SPECIES OF wasp has invaded the metropolis, killing nearly all Dapdap trees *(erythrina variegata var. orientalis)* in Metro Manila and baffling experts from Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The wasps, known as erythrina gall wasp (EGW), attack only trees with red flowers. Their origin is unknown but experts suspect they were originally from South Africa.

The DENR found 34 dead Dapdap trees in Green Meadows, 49 on Roxas Boulevard, 14 at the Asian Institute of Tourism in UP Diliman, and sporadic clusters in Batasan Hills, Greenhills, CCP Complex, Ayala Alabang, E. Rodriguez, Commonwealth Avenue and C-5 Road. The wasps have also attacked Dapdap trees in Laguna and Quezon.

Dapdap or red Indian coral trees are deciduous beach trees that shed their leaves and bear scarlet spikes early in the year. They can grow as tall as 15 to 20 meters and are often

DEATH/ A18

DEFOLIATED, DYING Dapdap (Indian coral tree) is one of 34 trees at Green Meadows Subdivision in Quezon City attacked by wasps. (Right) DENR reinforces one of the few survivors found at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. There were 49 dead trees on Roxas Blvd.

DENR PHOTO

No-rally zone turns Palace into fortress

By Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Armand N. Nocum

MALACAÑANG IS DOWNPLAYING THE STRENGTH OF protest actions against the administration but is setting up a virtual fortress in Malacañang to thwart protest rallies. The no-rally radius around the Palace includes the historic Mendiola (now Don Chino Roces) Bridge.

In a briefing yesterday at the Palace Executive House, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Malacañang would adopt the US policy prohibiting rallies within a broad perimeter around the White House.

He said Malacañang was finalizing details of the no-rally zone with Manila officials led by Mayor Lito Atienza, who was present at the briefing.

NO-RALLY/ A18

Marcelo: I feel pain all over

By Fe Zamora

IT APPEARS THAT IN OMBUDSMAN Simeon Marcelo's case, the spirit is all too willing but the flesh is faltering.

A small group of senior officials whom Marcelo gathered for an emergency meeting on Sept. 30 to confirm that he had indeed quit his post requested him to reconsider and just take a long vacation.

But per the account of Assistant Ombudsman Evelyn Baliton, Marcelo surprised the assembly with his response.

"He told us, 'I feel pain all over my body,' and we could see that he was really in pain. He was so pale; he looked really sick," said Baliton, chief of the Office of the Ombudsman's Public Assistance and Corruption Prevention Office.

Marcelo claimed failing health when he submitted his resignation letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo on Sept. 28. He said his work in the government had "exacted a heavy toll" on his health, leaving him "physically and mentally exhausted."

MARCELO/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2005

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/10/14/05

Second FRONTPAGE

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Text us your feedback: inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Lucena mayor suspended for graft

IT'S NOW more family time for suspended Lucena City Mayor Ramon Talaga Jr.

DELFIN MALLARI/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

By Nelson F. Flores

THE SANDIGANBAYAN ANTIGRAFT COURT HAS ORDERED THE preventive suspension of the mayor of Lucena City and six city councilors following the filing of graft charges against them by the Ombudsman's office.

Ordered suspended for 90 days were Mayor Ramon Y. Talaga Jr. and councilors Godofredo V. Faller, Danilo R. Zaballero, Salome S. Dato, Simon N. Aldovino, Wilfredo F. Asilo and Aurora C. Garcia.

Talaga and the other defendants were charged with graft after they allegedly allowed Jose Sy Beng to operate a bingo franchise in the city in 2000 through a mere city ordinance and without the required congressional franchise.

Ombudsman prosecutors said the operation of games of chance was the exclusive domain of the state-owned Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

Acting on the Sandiganbayan order, Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes issued a memorandum directing the six to "cease and desist from exercising the powers and performing the duties, functions and responsibilities of their respective offices."

Talaga was not in his office when Leonilo Lariosa, director of DILG in Calabarzon, arrived to personally serve the suspension order yesterday. But Lariosa was able to talk to the mayor on the phone.

Earlier, Talaga called on his followers to obey all lawful orders from Vice Mayor Rhoderick "Dondo" Alcala during the latter's temporary watch over the city government.

Lariosa said he would ask Alcala not to use Talaga's office.

"He's only temporary [mayor]. Mayor Talaga is still the mayor. This is only a preventive suspension, this is not a penalty," he said.

Asked whether the DILG would fill up the vacancies in the city council, Lariosa cited a legal ruling that the remaining members of the council could still effectively perform their duties and functions regardless of their reduced number.

"There is no need to appoint temporary councilors," he said.

In its resolution, the Sandiganbayan 4th Division said that the suspension was mandatory under RA 3019, or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

The antigraft court overruled all the arguments presented by the six accused, noting that they were a mere rehash of arguments earlier submitted in their motions to quash, which were all denied by the court.

Talaga and his co-accused claimed there was no prima facie basis for the indictment. They also noted that no pre-suspension hearing was conducted to determine the validity of the complaint. *With a report from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Ex-generals disown ads backing GMA

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

SEVERAL RETIRED GENERALS YESTERDAY disowned the contents of a paid advertisement on Friday which showed them purportedly expressing their loyalty and support for President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The full-page ad, which appeared in the INQUIRER on Friday, opposed Ms Arroyo's "removal" from office. It was paid for by Lt. Gen. Romeo Padiernos and his brother Col. Justino Padiernos, both retired, as president and chair of the Agricultural Productivity Development Corp. (APDC), respectively.

But several retired generals, including some known anti-Arroyo critics, who were listed as APDC "stockholders" and who appeared to be signatories to the statement, denied any knowledge of the ad.

Lt. Gen. Salvador Mison, president of the Philippine Military Association Alumni Association, whose name was mentioned in the ad, denied agreeing to give a statement of support to the President.

Nothing to do with it

"I'm denying that. I have nothing to do with that," he said in a phone interview. "We are categorically denying any knowledge and we resent the action of APDC. We were never consulted nor informed that our names will appear in the ad," Mison said in a statement yesterday.

"I did not know about that. I never said such thing. I told Padiernos he has no right to use my name," he added.

Mison said he has spoken to other generals mentioned in the list, namely former Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Joselin Nazareno, Maj. Gen. Jose Ma. Solquillo and Rear Admiral Guerrero Guzman.

"They are also mad at what happened," he said.

Retired Maj. Gen. Ramon Montano, a vocal anti-Arroyo critic, lambasted the Padiernos brothers for "misleading the public as if we are supportive of their political stance."

He said while they are shareholders of the APDC, they did not consent to make a statement of support to the President.

"We were never consulted and would never support an administration now infamous for using the military and police in massive election fraud, in jueteng collections, in the plunder of public funds and in the abuse of government power," he said.

No sense of honor

He said the Padiernos brothers "have lost their sense of honor as soldiers and allowed themselves to fool the people by using our names."

Montano said he has also spoken to the other retired generals, like Mison, Nazareno, Brig. Gen. Ernesto Gidaya, Brig. Gen. Rodrigo Gutang and Maj. Gen. Piohono Aparri and they have all disowned the statement of support.

SC affirms appointment of acting Cabinet members

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SUPREME COURT AFFIRMED ON Thursday the President's decision to appoint several acting members of the Cabinet, saying the law allows her to appoint persons in her "great trust and confidence" even on an acting capacity.

In a 15-page unanimous decision, the high court also said that the "power to appoint is essentially executive in nature" and Congress cannot intrude into such powers.

The case stemmed from a petition filed by nine members of the Senate late last year, arguing that the President cannot make appointments without the nod of the Commission on Appointments while Congress is in session; and that the President should first appoint undersecretaries to posts left vacant in the Cabinet.

In its ruling, the high tribunal said the temporary appointments did not infringe on the power of the CA. "President Arroyo's issuance of acting appointments while Congress is in session impairs no power of Congress," the SC said.

The SC also ruled that the "legislature may not interfere with the exercise" of the executive power to appoint.

In their petition filed last Sept. 8, 2004, the senators had asked the high court to issue a temporary restraining order on the appointments of Executive Secretary Eduardo R. Ermita, Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Ex-Education Secretary Florencio Abad, Environment Secretary Michael Defensor, Tourism Secretary Joseph Durano, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo, Ex-Agrarian Reform Secretary Rene de Villa, and Ex-Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap.

But while the case was still being heard, many of the Cabinet secretaries had already resigned or had been reassigned; while others eventually got their confirmation from the CA.

On the appointment of undersecretaries to a post vacated by a Cabinet secretary, the high court said the President is entitled to appoint a person she trusts.

"Congress, through a law, cannot impose on the President the obligation to appoint automatically the undersecretary as her temporary alter ego. All alter ego, whether temporary or permanent, holds a position of great trust and confidence. Congress, in the guise of prescribing qualifications to an office, cannot impose on the President who her alter ego should be," the court said.

To allay fears that the practice may be "susceptible to abuse," the court said that acting appointments cannot exceed one year as provided by law.

"The law has incorporated this safeguard to prevent abuses, like the use of acting appointments as a way to circumvent confirmation by the (CA)," the court said.

Those who filed the petition were Senators Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Edgardo Angara, Juan Ponce Enrile, Luisa Ejercito-Estrada, Jinggoy Estrada, Panfilo Lacson, Alfredo Lim, Jamby Madrigal and Sergio Osmeña III.

Mayors hail relocation of squatters along NorthRail tracks

THE MAYORS OF AT LEAST SIX TOWNS in Bulacan to be traversed by the $503-million North Luzon Railways Corp. (NorthRail) project yesterday voiced support for the ongoing relocation of squatters in their areas, saying this could be the key to the progress of Central Luzon.

The mayors joined Vice President Noli de Castro and representatives of various squatter associations in defending the relocation program during a press conference at the National Housing Authority which coincided with the celebration of the agency's 30th anniversary.

Guiguinto Mayor Ambrosio Cruz said he and the other mayors had signed a manifesto supporting both the project and the relocation, which they likened to a "miracle from heaven" that would solve the squatter problem in their respective areas.

The other mayors were Reynaldo Cruz of Balagtas, Serafin de la Cruz of Bocaue, Epifanio Guillermo of Marilao, Eduardo Alarilla of Meycauayan and Danilo Domingo of Malolos.

Also present in the press conference were representatives of the Buklod ng Maralitang Taga-Lungsod, People's Homeless Federation, and the Samahan ng Lakas-Bisig ng Balagtas.

All of them appealed to politicians to spare the relocation program from politics considering the nationwide problem of squatting.

De Castro, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), said clearing operations for the Metro Manila segment consisting of Caloocan, Malabon and Valenzuela were over and the relocation of squatters along the Bulacan section of the railroad would be completed by the end of the month.

He denied that there was strong opposition among the affected families, saying most of the 13,000 families already relocated had voluntarily dismantled their homes and moved to resettlement sites provided by the government.

The government has already spent P1.6 billion out of the expected P6 billion total budget for the relocation of squatters affected by NorthRail, he said. *Cynthia D. Balana*

Put up or shut up, Naia bidders told

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO wants businessmen Lucio Tan, Emilio Yap and Cheng Yong to stop issuing press releases and instead make concrete proposals to the government if they are really serious about running the mothballed Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

This is the message Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila said the President relayed to him during a private meeting with leaders of the country's largest business groups shortly after she opened the 31st Philippine Business Conference last Thursday.

None of the three tycoons were present during the 15-minute meeting but other businessmen there urged the President to open Naia3 which they said would show investors her government could get things done if it wanted to, according to Favila.

The President replied that even if she wanted to, her government could not begin evaluating any offers simply because none has been made, said Favila. He complained that Tan's Asia's Emerging Dragon Corp. and Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) of Yap-and-Cheng tandem have not gone beyond issuing press releases.

"(The President) has asked me and (Transportation and Communication) Secretary Leandro Mendoza to sit down and start negotiations, but how can we do that when we don't have anything concrete to work on? They say they have bought out this partner or they have money to pay us but all of these are in their press releases. The government does not work that way," Favila said.

Favila and Mendoza are part of the presidential task force assigned to firm up the opening of Naia3. Other members are Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, and presidential legal adviser Merceditas Gutierrez.

The government took over the Naia3 facility in December 2004 after the Supreme Court voided the contract of its developer, Piatco, which was originally a partnership between the Cheng family and foreign investors led by Fraport AG of Germany until Yap recently claimed having bought out the foreign shareholders.

Yap's Manila Hotel is offering to withdraw all cases it lodged against the government in exchange for regaining control of the terminal Piatco built. *With a report from Clarissa Batino*

RP, US troops start new war games

ABOUT 5,000 US AND PHILIPPINE TROOPS began new annual military exercises yesterday aimed at strengthening the Philippines' fight against terrorism.

Over the next two weeks, US Marines and sailors will join Filipino soldiers in the training maneuvers, called "Talon Vision and Amphibious Landing Exercise."

Joint exercises by the two countries have taken on an urgency in recent years as the Philippine military has launched US-backed offensives against al-Qaida-linked groups in the South.

"The exercises are designed to improve interoperability, increase readiness and continue the professional relationship between the United States and Philippine armed forces," Philippine Marine spokesperson Maj. Melquiades Ordiales said in a statement, as the two forces held an opening ceremony for the exercises in Manila.

Most of the events, such as amphibious landing exercises, will be held in Luzon, including at the former US Air Base in Clark, said US Marine Capt. Burrell Parmer.

US forces have been providing intelligence support and supplying communications to Filipino troops hunting for the al-Qaida-linked groups Jemaah Islamiyah and Abu Sayyaf.

Abu Sayyaf guerrillas used to be based in Basilan until US-backed offensives three years ago forced them to flee to nearby islands and provinces. *AP*

US MARINE Capt. Jennifer Mercer (right) talks to a Filipino participant during the opening ceremonies of the joint RP-US military exercises dubbed "Talon Vision 06" and PHIBLEX 06 at the Marine headquarters in Taguig City.

AP

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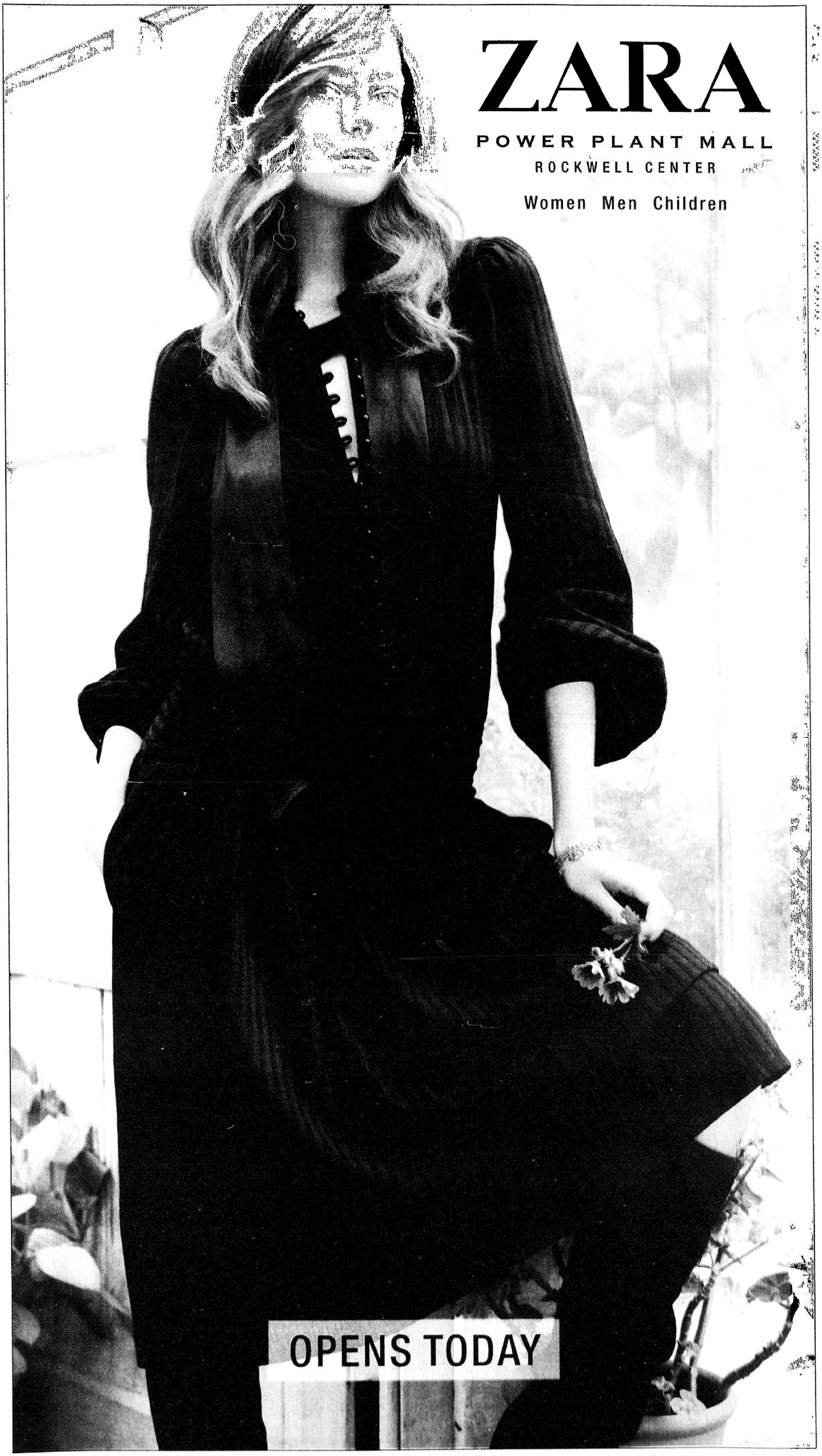
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OPENS TODAY

Police in no hurry to arrest Bro. Eddie

POLICE APPEAR NOT TO BE IN ANY HURRY to serve a long-standing arrest warrant on evangelist Eddie Villanueva.

A Mandaluyong court last April ordered the arrest of Villanueva who was sued for estafa by Benito Araneta, a cousin of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

But when Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez ordered the National Bureau of Investigation to serve the arrest warrant last month, Villanueva, who lost the presidential election to President Macapagal-Arroyo in 2004, cried harassment and claimed the government was persecuting him for leading anti-Arroyo rallies.

He has refused to post the P40,000 bail and dared the authorities to throw him in jail.

Villanueva stayed for several hours for two successive days in a hotel in Mandaluyong last week, daring authorities to arrest him but nobody came, despite the Mandaluyong police having been furnished a copy of the arrest warrant.

"We still have to arrange the security aspect. If we arrest him, his supporters might stage rallies. We have to take that into consideration," said Senior Supt. Ericson Velasquez, the Mandaluyong police chief.

Neither has Pasig, which has jurisdiction over the Ortigas business district where Villanueva and his Zoe TV hold office, acted on the warrant.

Senior Supt. Raul Medina, the Pasig police chief, said he had sent teams to Villanueva's office three times since getting a copy of the arrest warrant.

"But (Villanueva) was not in his office when our teams went there," Medina said.

Velasquez said that while the arrest warrant was still in effect, authorities have to consider where to detain Villanueva before arresting him.

In March 2001, Villanueva and his Zoe TV entered into an agreement with Araneta and his EnterNet for the operation of Channel 11, which Villanueva owns.

Araneta alleged that he paid P15 million to Villanueva only to find out that Villanueva already had an existing agreement with Vintage TV Corp. to operate the station.

But Villanueva said his contract with Vintage TV had been rescinded even before he entered into an agreement with EnterNet.

He claimed that it was Araneta and his group who still owed his company more than P200 million.

Araneta has denied that there was anything political about the case. He said it was a purely business matter and indicated he was willing to withdraw the suit if Villanueva returned his money. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Mikey leaves again for US

By Nikko Dizon

PAMPANGA REP. JUAN MIGUEL "MIKEY" Arroyo, the President's son, has left again for the United States as unobtrusively as when he arrived in the country last month to resume a self-imposed exile with his father, First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

A source at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport confirmed to the INQUIRER Thursday that Mikey left a couple of days after his mother, President Macapagal-Arroyo, departed last Sept. 12 for New York City to preside over a United Nations Security Council meeting.

The source said Mikey took a Philippine Airlines flight to San Francisco. "He was alone. His wife and daughters were not with him," the source said.

Mikey and his family came home last Sept. 4 to celebrate here the birthdays of his wife, Angela, and younger brother, Dato, this month.

Mikey's office at the House of Representatives said that his stay in the US would be brief, and that he remains on official leave.

Mikey, his father, and uncle, Negros Rep. Iggy Arroyo, had been accused by self-confessed illegal numbers game bagwoman, Sandra Cam, of receiving "jueteng" protection money during a Senate investigation three months ago.

The Arroyos have denied the allegation and in its aftermath, Mikey decided to go on leave from the House.

Father and son also went on voluntary exile in hopes of lessening the heat brought upon Ms Arroyo as she battled accusations of electoral fraud and calls for her resignation.

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House vows to pass ₱1-trillion budget for 2006

THE HOUSE WILL be able to pass the P1.05 trillion appropriations bill on schedule, precluding the possibility of yet another reenacted budget, according to the chair of the committee on appropriations, Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr.

Andaya said the committee has been conducting marathon, 14-hour hearings to make up for the time lost when the House conducted impeachment hearings against President Macapagal-Arroyo through September.

"There will be no reenacted budget. Yes, the impeachment proceedings set us back two months but we have since recovered a great deal of lost time," Andaya said.

The hearings for the departments of education, and trade and industry were deferred Thursday but Andaya was unfazed.

"We have been holding hearings until midnight. While senators sleep, we are burning the midnight oil," Andaya said.

The hearings for one department, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, finished at 1 a.m. The national defense budget session wrapped up just before midnight.

Andaya said the budget hearings would continue next week even while Congress is in recess.

He said the budget needs to be passed so government workers will have their pay increase next year.

More than one million government workers will receive P13.1 billion in salary adjustments next year if the 2006 budget is passed. *Norman Bordadora*

DOT eyes Spanish tourists

By Volt Contreras

THE COUNTRY'S 377 years as a Spanish colony seem to be a non-factor in modern day "conquistadors" holiday plans, as most of them are lured to other better-marketed destinations in Southeast Asia.

With this observation, a Spanish Embassy official Thursday said the rest of the year will see aggressive efforts between the embassy and the Department of Tourism to reintroduce the Philippines to Spanish tourists, through campaigns capitalizing on the deep historical links between the two countries.

"Not many people in Spain know and only when we get here do we realize we are your former colonizers," said Jose Miguel Cortes, the embassy's economic and commercial counselor.

"Unfortunately when you go to Spain these days and see the brochures of travel agencies, you never see the Philippines," he told reporters in a function in Makati City marking Spain's National Day.

The embassy's initial projects with the DOT include a familiarization tour for Spanish journalists and travel executives within the year, Cortes said.

"I told Tourism Secretary (Ace) Durano that they should make an effort because Spanish tourists travel a lot and spend a lot. We agreed that they will make an effort," he added.

Some 6,000 Spanish tourists arrived in the country last year, mostly to go diving. They came, however, largely after learning about the local attractions on the Internet or by word of mouth, rather than as a result of DOT promotions in Spain, Cortes said.

The number was a fraction of those who visited other countries in the region, such as Vietnam, which got around 50,000 visitors from Spain, or Thailand which drew some 100,000, he said.

Spanish arrivals in the Philippines could increase considering that Spain has not issued any travel warnings on the country, the diplomat said.

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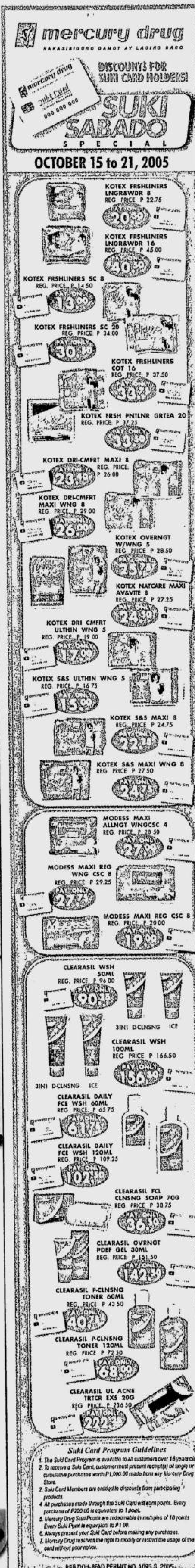

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Pinay in Singapore slay seeks lesser charge

HUSBAND of domestic helper Guen Aguilar accused of the "chop-chop" murder of a fellow domestic helper in Singapore leaves the court with Philippine envoy to Singapore, Belen Fule-Anota on Friday. AP

SINGAPORE—THE LAWYER OF FILIPina domestic Guen Aguilar, accused of murdering a compatriot in Singapore and dismembering her corpse, yesterday said he may try to seek a lesser charge in a bid to save her from the death penalty.

Defense lawyer Shashi Nathan said he would not rule out seeking an amendment to the murder charge against Aguilar after his conversations with her gave the defense team a clearer picture of what may have transpired.

Nathan said he would also base his decision on seeking to amend the charges after evaluating the psychiatric report on Aguilar, the autopsy report on the victim, the forensic evidence and his team's own investigations.

Aguilar, 29, is accused of killing fellow Filipino domestic Jane Lapuebla last month—a crime punishable by hanging in Singapore, where thousands of Filipino women work as maids.

The 26-year-old Lapuebla's severed head and limbs were found inside a sports bag along Singapore's Orchard Road shopping district on Sept. 9, while her torso was found at a nature park.

Aguilar was arrested the following day.

Detailed picture

"She has given us quite a detailed picture of what took place," Nathan told reporters after yesterday's pretrial conference at the Subordinate Court, referring to his recent conversations with the accused.

"I think given the information that Guen has given us, I may even make representations to the Attorney General's Chambers at some point to see whether the charge can be amended," he said.

He said there are "many things lower than a murder charge" that do not carry the death penalty.

"The important thing is to save a life—that's what I want to do. And if we can save a life, I think we would have gone a long way to helping her," Nathan said.

A pre-trial meeting on the case has been scheduled on Dec. 6 at the High Court to prepare for a possible trial, which Nathan said could start either in late February or early March.

During yesterday's session, Aguilar was in handcuffs and garbed in a maroon prison uniform. In the gallery was her husband, Edwin, and eldest sister Joy, who was seen wiping away tears.

Nathan said Aguilar broke down a few times during their recent conversations and was "extremely fearful" about her fate.

"It's understandable ... I think you can't run away from the fact that if you have a capital charge, there is fear of losing your life," he said.

Flor Contemplacion

The Aguilar case has sparked intense interest in the Philippines because of similarities with that of Flor Contemplacion, a Filipino domestic hanged here in 1995 for killing another Filipino maid and a Singaporean boy.

Contemplacion's hanging strained bilateral ties, which have since improved.

Labor attache Merriam Cuasay, in her report to the labor department, said Guen looked downcast when she entered the courtroom but broke into a smile when the police interpreter informed her that her husband Edwin was present.

Aside from Guen's lawyers and her husband, Philippine Ambassador Belen Anota and the Philippine Embassy's watch-in-brief barrister, Ranvir Kumar Singh, were also at the hearing.

In the public gallery were Aguilar's sister Joy, Filipino community leader Sr. Mary Laetitiae of the Good Shepherd Convent, Public Attorney's Office chief Persida Rueda Acosta, Volunteer Against Crime and Corruption founding chair Dante Jimenez, Cuasay and some Philippine embassy staff.

According to a DOLE briefing paper on the procedure of a capital trial in Singapore, the pre-trial conference is usually held about two months after the first hearing, in a Subordinate Court.

The pre-trial conference is held before a district judge inside his chambers, with the defense counsel and the deputy public prosecutor. One or more conferences would be held to sort out pre-trial matters, such as the nature of the prosecution's evidence, possible pleas for the reduction of charges, and the subsequent hearing dates for the preliminary inquiry and actual trial.

Final hearing

After the final hearing in the Subordinate Court, the case would be transferred to the High Court for preliminary inquiry.

The fifth, and possibly final, hearing at the Subordinate Court has been set for Dec. 5 at 9 a.m.

During the preliminary inquiry, the deputy public prosecutor will submit to the court all pieces of evidence, including the statement of the witnesses, as well as relevant documents and photographs.

The trial proper follows, after which the High Court judge renders his decision, which the prosecution or the defense has the option to appeal to the Court of Appeal, Singapore's final appellate court.

If a death sentence is affirmed, the accused may appeal for clemency to the President of Singapore. The President seeks Cabinet's advice regarding pleas of clemency, commutation and pardon. *AFP and Jerome Aning*

Senate won't be cowed—Pimentel

By TJ Burgonio

THEY WON'T BE COWED.

After President Macapagal-Arroyo's latest tirade against the Senate over its supposed fixation on conducting inquiries, senators yesterday vowed to press ahead with their investigations into anomalies involving Cabinet officials.

"The Senate will not be cowed by President Macapagal-Arroyo's irrational and incessant attempt to muzzle the Senate and prevent it from uncovering the truth behind the scandalous government deals that are her own making," Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said yesterday.

Pimentel also defended the Senate's decision to look into the allegedly anomalous $503-million NorthRail project, the questionable contract with the US lobby firm Venable LLP and the alleged mismanagement of P728 million in fertilizer funds.

"If there is so much stealing in government, that calls for intense criticisms. Because if you do it in a tame manner without force, nobody will listen. And there will be no end to venalities in government," Pimentel said.

Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said the Senate could not be faulted for conducting these inquiries.

"Malacañang is claiming that these investigations are hampering the country's economic growth. My take on that is that if they don't do anything questionable, we don't have anything to investigate," he said.

Echoing his colleagues, Roxas stressed that the conduct of the inquiries fell within the Senate's legislative and oversight functions.

In a fiery speech before businessmen, the President roundly criticized the senators for prioritizing inquiries into anomalies rather than key pieces of legislation, such as the 2006 proposed national budget and the antiterrorism bill.

"To those who oppose me, it's your right to do so as long as it's a matter of fiscalization. But a power grab and ouster is another matter," she said.

But Pimentel yesterday branded as the "height of arrogance and myopia" the President's comparison of the lawmakers' role as fiscalizers with destabilization.

"There are many anomalies that are happening in this administration and she is at the center of them. And when we criticize the anomalies, she gets angry," he said. "As senators, we could not just close our eyes to these anomalies at the risk of being accused of abdicating our constitutional duty."

In anticipation of the escalation of verbal hostilities between the Palace and Congress in the wake of the President's tirade, Roxas called for sobriety.

"Let's maintain our cool. We don't need to hit one another like kids in grade school because in the end, it's the people who will become disappointed," he said in a radio interview.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said on Thursday that back-channel talks between the executive and legislative branches would continue to thresh out differences about Executive Order No. 464.

"I am open to dialogue. But the matter of the petition for certiorari which the Senate as an institution and 16 senators filed with the Supreme Court is a matter that must be decided as a constitutional issue," he said.

Senators have asked the high court to stop the implementation of the controversial EO which bars administration, police and military officials from appearing before congressional hearings without the President's consent.

Gonzales seeks bail

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER Norberto Gonzales has asked the Supreme Court for permission to leave the Philippine Heart Center where he has been ordered detained by the Senate following a contempt citation so he can get a second opinion on the necessity of a heart operation.

In an "Urgent Motion for Bail," lawyer Antonio Bautista told the court his client needs to get the opinion of other doctors following the recommendation of Dr. Lutgerio D. Torres, Gonzales' attending physician at the heart center, that Gonzales undergo heart surgery.

"An open-heart surgery, otherwise known as by-pass operation, could be a life-threatening procedure and it will also incapacitate petitioner from his regular work for at least a month," the petition said.

"Obviously, the matter of having to undergo such a grave and possibly life-threatening procedure should be well considered. For this reason, petitioner would like to seek a second and/or third opinion on the need for such a surgery, and even Torres himself agrees to this," it added.

The Senate Blue Ribbon Committee ordered Gonzales detained at the hospital, where he was rushed with an elevated blood pressure last Sept. 21, after being declared in contempt for refusing to answer questions regarding a contract he signed with the American lobby firm Venable LLP.

Bautista said Gonzales "cannot freely and adequately seek out other and further medical opinion if he is confined under the custody of the Senate sergeant-at-arms" at the heart center. He assured the court that Gonzales is "definitely not a flight risk as he is a sitting member of the Cabinet."

Thus, the court should grant Gonzales a "temporary release from custody of the Senate on such conditions as bail or otherwise as this court may impose."

Armand N. Nocum

BINAY: Gross misconduct

Binay faces new graft case

MAKATI MAYOR JEJOMAR BINAY AND 19 other city government officials yesterday were charged with graft before the Ombudsman over the allegedly irregular use of the city's coliseum.

The complaint was filed by seven people led by Rolly Ligon of the Metro Manila Cockpit Owners and Operators and Roberto Brillante, a longtime political rival of Binay's.

Binay, Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado and the city council members were alleged to have committed "gross misconduct" when they granted WTJ, a private firm, an operating franchise to hold cockfights at the Makati Coliseum.

The INQUIRER tried to contact Binay in his office but he was unavailable.

The complainants asked the Ombudsman to stop the Makati government from holding cockfights at the coliseum which they said was "a public building dedicated to the promotion of sports, athletics, cultural presentations and the performing arts".

They said Presidential Decree No. 449, or the Cockfighting Law of 1974, prohibited the operation of cockpits inside public buildings like the Makati Coliseum.

"While the local government units have been empowered by law to grant operating franchises to cockpits within its jurisdiction, such law does not allow them to engage in the business of building, owning or operating cockpits. The local government code does not authorize it. To permit the City of Makati to dedicate one of its public buildings to cockfighring is bad precedent and contravenes public policy," the complainants said in their affidavit.

They said the Makati Coliseum was built in 1997 using some P48 million of city government funds to serve as a venue for sports and other recreational activities for Makati residents.

Aside from Binay and Mercado, also charged were councilors Jejomar Binay Jr., Rico J. Puno, Erlinda Gonzales, Ferdinand Eusebio, Monique Lagdameo, Ricardo Javier, Romeo Medina, Francisco Lichauco, Divina Jacome, Israel Cruzado, Nelson Pasia, Elias Tolentino Jr., Ernesto Aspillaga, Romana Pangilinan, Nemesio Yabut, Pedro Ibay, Christine Mercado and Rodolfo Sese. *Nelson F. Flores*

Marcelo: I feel pain all over

From page A1

His resignation will take effect on Nov. 30. It will cap a three-year crusade to curb graft and corruption by instituting reforms in the Office of the Ombudsman itself and preventive measures in the government's procurement system, as well as mounting legal battles in high-profile corruption cases, including the plunder case against ousted President Joseph Estrada.

In the meantime, Baliton said, the officers and staff of the Office of the Ombudsman are looking forward to hosting a thanksgiving Mass on Oct. 21, Marcelo's 53rd birthday.

Legacy

"Marcelo had wanted to see the end of the Estrada case during his watch. He had wanted it as his legacy to the country," said a senior lawyer who asked not to be named.

According to the lawyer, Marcelo took a "hands-on" approach in all complaints and followed up each case from fact-finding to conclusion, whether it was dismissal or the filing of charges leading to prosecution.

He went to the extent of getting engineers to explain to him the technology of road construction in a reclamation area, the better to understand the case of the allegedly overpriced President Diosdado Macapagal Avenue by the Manila Bay, the lawyer said.

A fifth placer in the 1979 bar examinations and one of the private prosecutors at Estrada's impeachment trial, Marcelo was appointed solicitor general by Ms Arroyo in 2001 and Ombudsman in October 2002.

He was a partner at the Villaraza, Carpio and Cruz law office before he joined the government.

Capability

Baliton said Marcelo's primary concern lay not only in pushing the progress of the cases but also in improving the capability of the Office of the Ombudsman to curb corruption.

"He strengthened our partnership with civil society, nongovernment organizations and church-based interfaith groups," Baliton noted.

He was focused on procurement training as a means to stop graft in government purchases, which is known to drain millions of pesos from the national coffers, she said.

Baliton said Marcelo also aimed to improve the investigative capability of the Office of the Ombudsman.

When he assumed his post, the office had only 37 field investigators assigned to check on the conduct of an estimated 1.5 million government workers.

In three years, he had recruited more than 100 field investigators, most of them fresh graduates of some of the country's top universities and colleges, Baliton said.

Training

"We have been attracting quality graduates, including summa and magna cum laudes," Baliton said.

She said Marcelo made sure the new field investigators had the proper training, and sent some of them to the United States to train with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

To support the recruitment and training of personnel and the purchase of modern hardware, Marcelo lobbied for additional funds from the national budget to augment grants from the European Union, Baliton said.

She added: "Reforms are already in place. If these would be followed and implemented, there's no reason why we cannot achieve our objectives."

No, thanks

In Cebu City, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. yesterday told reporters that he would not accept the offer to succeed Marcelo.

Davide, who will retire from the judiciary in December, also said: "I have no plans beyond my retirement. It was an idea floated by Sen. Francis Pangilinan, but I don't have plans to accept that work.

"I already said I would rest after my retirement. I have no intention of accepting any position in the government. There are many who are qualified. I have [rendered] enough service in the judiciary."

The Chief Justice had said in earlier interviews that he would retire to his farm in Barangay Colawin in Argao, his hometown 66.9 km south of Cebu City.

Davide, who was in Cebu to attend the first-anniversary celebration of the establishment of the three appellate divisions in the city, said he was still part of the Judicial Bar Council (JBC), which screens applicants for positions in the judiciary.

He said there were now applicants for the post of Ombudsman and the JBC would evaluate the applications shortly.

He declined to name the applicants but expressed hope that the position would be filled before Marcelo's resignation takes effect. *With a report from Jolene R. Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau*

SATUR'S WARNING

Only one territory for MILF, MNLF

By Michael Lim Ubac

TWO MUSLIM SEPARATIST GROUPS, ONE territory.

Satur Ocampo, chair of the House of Representatives' special committee on peace, reconciliation and unity, says the Arroyo government should consider the fate of the larger group of Muslims belonging to the Moro National Liberation Front before its seals a new autonomy agreement with the rival Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

"So how do they solve the problem? There's only one territory," said Ocampo, referring to the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, or ARMM, which consists of the provinces of Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Basilan and Marawi City.

Ocampo told the INQUIRER in an interview that the government faced a new "political issue" because it had a separate agreement with the MNLF, which had paved the way for the creation of the ARMM and the election of then MNLF chair Nur Misuari as the autonomous region's first governor.

Ocampo was reacting to a government disclosure – confirmed by MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu – that they had agreed in principle to allow a Bangsamoro government to draft its own constitution, impose its own tax system and form and maintain legal and financial institutions in an expanded Muslim region in the south.

The legislator noted that the MNLF was a Moro guerrilla group which entered into a peace agreement with the government in September 1996 when Misuari was still at the helm of the group.

"Now, the government is entering into a peace accord with the MILF calling for another autonomous region in Mindanao. What will they do with the existing ARMM which was created by law?" said Ocampo.

Ocampo recalled he posed the same question to MILF leaders during a hearing by his committee.

"They said that the negotiation for another autonomous government will continue. The government will work it out later," Ocampo said, without identifying the MILF personalities.

Noting that the MILF had its own "negotiation trajectory," Ocampo said that in the end the country "will suffer the consequences of this action." In any event, he added, Malacañang would again have to run to Congress to legitimize the accord.

"What will be the reaction of the MNLF?" asked Ocampo, stressing that the Misuari-faction and the rest of the MNLF headed by former ARMM governor Parouk Hussin should also be consulted before any new autonomy agreement is concluded.

On Nov. 20, 2001, Misuari staged a mutiny after he was ousted by a government-backed 15-man council of the MNLF led by Hussin.

Breaking a 1996 peace deal with the government, Misuari and 400 of his men attacked three military camps and a police station on the island of Jolo. At least 51 people – 48 rebels and three soldiers – were killed and hundreds of civilians were displaced in the clashes that followed.

Misuari was arrested shortly afterward in Malaysia and is now detained at the Special Action Force camp in Silang, Cavite while awaiting trial for rebellion.

At the peak of the Moro rebellion, which began in 1972, more than 20,000 MNLF warriors fought the Marcos regime until a peace agreement was reached in 1976 with the help of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

But the accord collapsed and the rebellion continued on-and-off for years until the OIC persuaded Misuari to accept an autonomous arrangement offered by then President Fidel Ramos. Meanwhile, the MILF, which had earlier broken away from the MNLF continued to wage its own rebellion. It eventually entered into a ceasefire agreement with the Ramos administration but this too fell apart when the Estrada administration overran MILF camps because they were allegedly harboring terrorists.

Troops seize NPA explosives

TROOPS SEIZED A HUGE CACHE OF BOMB materials in a raid on a communist rebel hideout in a mountain barangay in Tanay, Rizal, an army spokesman said yesterday.

Major Bartolome Bacarro said soldiers, acting on a tip from informants, stormed a house in Tanay and found two boxes with about 100 kg (220 lb) of black gunpowder, an ingredient that could be used to make improvised explosives.

"There was no resistance at all," he told reporters, adding the armed men guarding the house fled as troops closed in.

Bacarro said the military was concerned about the bomb-making materials because the New People's Army (NPA) might have a plan to carry out attacks in Metro Manila as leftist activists hold regular protests near Malacañang.

The military says the NPA, blacklisted by Washington as a terrorist organization, has been stepping up attacks in the countryside using improvised bombs.

On Sunday, nine people, including five soldiers, were killed when a roadside bomb exploded during an ambush by NPA rebels in a remote farming town of Mindanao.

The rebels were also using home-made bombs to topple or burn down transmitters and relay towers of telecommunications firms that refused to pay "revolutionary taxes," Bacarro said.

At least 18 cellular phone sites, 15 of them owned by number two carrier Globe Telecom Inc., have been damaged or destroyed since January.

In the last two weeks, the NPA has said it has killed about 60 soldiers in 74 encounters in the Bicol region and in northern and eastern areas of Mindanao.

Analysts say the rebels are trying to exploit government distractions over allegations that President Macapagal-Arroyo cheated her way to a fresh term in last year's election and that members of her family are corrupt. *Reuters*

Haribon hosts bird watch in Candaba

THE PHILIPPINES IS HOME TO SOME 556 BIRD species, about 44 percent of which are unique to the country, making it a haven for bird watchers.

It is also the East Asian Flyway that migratory birds take during the winter months of October to April.

The Haribon Foundation, through its membership program and together with stakeholders in Candaba, Pampanga, is hosting a bird watching activity on Oct. 22 at the Candaba Swamp.

The activity is aimed at increasing public awareness and promoting the protection and preservation of not only the Candaba Swamp but migratory birds as well.

It is open to the general public, including the residents of Candaba, local tourists, researchers and members of the academe.

The registration fee is P750/person for Haribon members and P1,000/person for nonmembers. It covers the costs of transportation, a morning snack, a packed lunch, laminated field guides, a booklet on bird watching and the fee of a professional bird guide.

For details, contact Lemuel Ponce or Anya Santos at 920-7430, 434-8237, or 436-4363 loc. 15 or 16; e-mail act@haribon.org.ph, or visit www.haribon.org.ph.

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Search for quake survivors abandoned

MUZAFFARABAD, PAKISTAN—THE SEARCH FOR survivors in quake-hit Pakistan was being abandoned Thursday as rescuers battling blocked roads and a shortage of helicopters focused on getting aid to remote mountain villages.

REUTERS

A KASHMIRI quake survivor cries for food as she sits outside her makeshift shelter on the side of a mountain road near Maseru in Indian-administered Kashmir Oct. 13.

In Muzaffarabad, the devastated capital of Pakistani Kashmir, Army spokesperson Maj. Farooq Nasir said the chances of finding anyone alive in the rubble were very slim, and that operations had moved to a recovery phase.

Bulldozers moved in to begin clearing the piles of wreckage although in the capital Islamabad, Pakistan's chief military spokesperson insisted there was still hope and that the search would continue.

Rescue teams who rushed to Pakistan from around the world in the days after the quake were also packing up their equipment, knowing it was nearly impossible for people to live so long in the rubble and the cold.

The focus was turning instead to the urgent need to bring food, clothing and shelter to an estimated 2.5 million people made homeless by Saturday's monster quake, which hit just as winter closes in on the Himalayas.

The UN's top emergency aid official Jan Egeland said after touring the disaster zone that the devastation was "beyond belief."

He said authorities faced a nightmare scenario in one of the world's most rugged regions, with many of the roads destroyed and not enough helicopters to reach the millions left hungry and without shelter.

"We're still racing against the clock and we need to get more helicopters, more water, more tents and more money," he said.

"This is a desperate situation. As you can see we are making progress in the more populated areas, but it is so hard to reach the others."

Pakistan's disaster response chief also issued a grim warning that many desperate survivors would not receive help before bitter weather closes in on the Himalayas, and snow and ice forces deliveries to a halt.

"It is not possible to provide shelter to all the affected people before the winter approaches," said Maj. Gen. Farooq Javed, adding that despite the outpouring of aid from some 30 countries there was still a dire need for more blankets and tents.

Javed said it would take "many years to say the least" to rebuild northeast Pakistan, where entire towns and villages were obliterated by the quake, which killed at least 25,000 in Pakistan and over 1,300 in India.

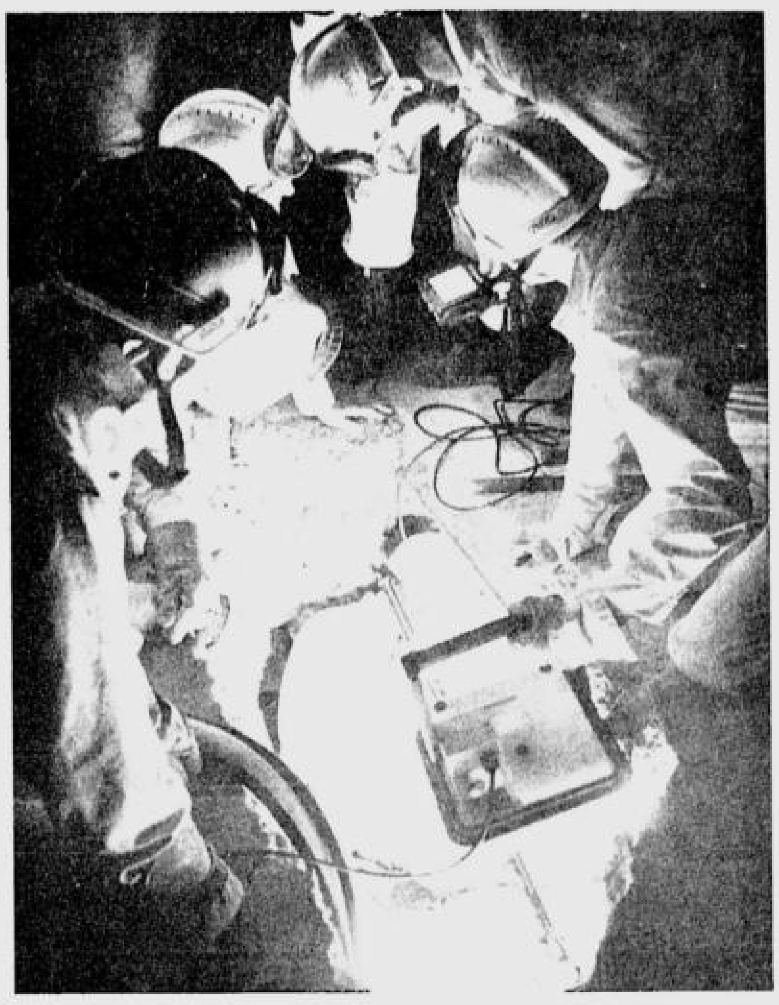
As donated helicopters begin operating in the quake zone and troops clear landslides blocking the mountain passes, aid is beginning to arrive in cities like Muzaffarabad and Balakot that bore the brunt of the disaster.

But the distribution system is chaotic, triggering ugly scuffles among survivors, and Pakistani troops face immense hurdles in hauling supplies to remote villages that are barely accessible even by helicopter.

Villagers have begun pouring out of the mountains, many carrying injured relatives, to try to find help in once-bustling major towns where basic field hospitals and relief points have been set up.

The hardship has been compounded by a series of powerful aftershocks that triggered panic on both sides of the heavily militarized Line of Control that divides Kashmir between India and Pakistan.

On the Muslim holy day, there were prayers for the victims of the quake, and for those who have spent so many nights out in the cold and wet facing a shortage of relief supplies. *AFP*



A SEARCH and rescue crew from the Netherlands monitor the screen from a camera held by a colleague beneath the rubble in a search for bodies on the outskirts of Bagh, Oct. 13, in Pakistan Kashmir.

AFP

Diet fulfills Japan PM's postal privatization dream

TOKYO—JAPAN ENACTED LAWS on Friday to privatize its postal system, including the world's biggest savings bank, a reform that Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi has long advocated as a vital step to streamline the economy.

Parliament's upper house, whose rejection of the bills in August triggered a general election that the ruling camp won by a landslide, approved the legislation by a vote of 134 to 100 following adoption by the more powerful lower chamber on Tuesday.

"This was a miracle in the political world," a smiling Koizumi told reporters after the enactment of the reforms he had called for during most of his three decades in parliament.

"We must push ahead with reforms more than ever," he said.

Privatizing the postal system has been the cornerstone of Koizumi's agenda to wean the long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) from its addiction to the wasteful public spending that had won votes but bred scandals and inflated government debt.

The big election win by the LDP and its junior coalition partner in the Sept. 11 lower house poll—cast by Koizumi as a referendum on postal privatization—convinced most ruling party members of the upper house who had opposed the bills to vote in favor of the legislation this time around.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda said the popular support for postal privatization was also a message to go ahead with other reforms.

"The idea that something is not possible because of opposition from vested interests no longer holds true," he said.

Some analysts wonder whether Koizumi, having achieved his long-held dream, will show the same dedication in tackling fresh reforms on such issues as medical care and other matters.

Under the postal laws, Japan Post, which has 25,000 post offices and some $3 trillion in assets, will be split into four entities under a new holding company and privatized in 2007. *Reuters*

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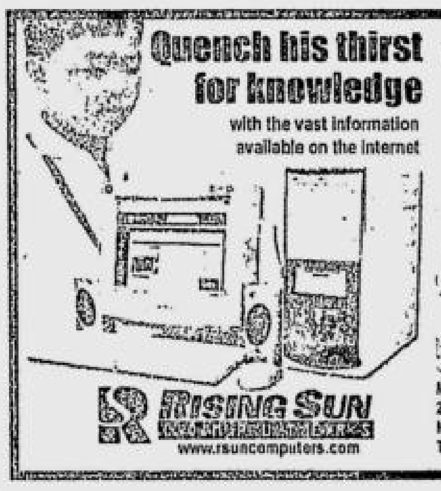
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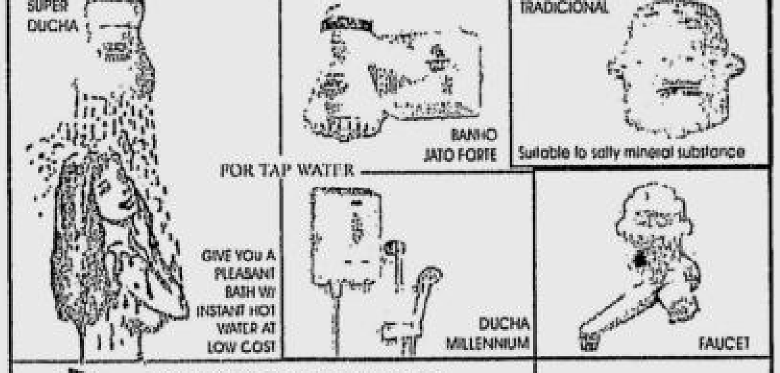
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98 killed as Russia puts down attacks

NALCHIK, RUSSIA—ALL REBEL RESISTANCE in the southern Russian city of Nalchik has been put down, a day after militants launched a series of attacks in which at least 98 people died, the head of the regional government said Friday, according to the news agency Interfax.

Gennady Gubin was quoted as saying that all hostages had been freed. At least 98 people, including 72 attackers, had been killed in the fighting, according to a tally of accounts by officials, news reports and an Associated Press reporter.

Chechen rebels claimed involvement in the near-simultaneous attacks on police and security facilities that terrified the city of 235,000 and left corpses lying on the streets.

"All points of rebel resistance have been suppressed and hostages freed. Now the security forces are conducting a sweep of the city to find rebels who are hiding," Interfax quoted Gubin, the prime minister of the Kabardino-Balkariya republic, as saying.

Kabardino-Balkariya is near Chechnya, where rebels have been fighting Russian forces for most of the past decade, and the assault on Nalchik raised fears that a new front was opening in the troubled Russian Caucasus. Dagestan, another Caucasus republic, has suffered a sharp rise in violence this year, with bomb attacks and clashes between police and fighters of uncertain affiliation reported almost daily.

Earlier Friday, rounds of heavy weapons fire broke out around a gift shop in the center of Nalchik, the regional capital, where several fighters were holed up with two hostages. Russian Deputy Prosecutor General Vladimir Kolesnikov said the hostages were freed and three rebels killed. Television station NTV said an armored personnel carrier was used to ram the store.

Zaur Makhsiyev, who said his 20-year-old sister Leyla had been inside the store, said she was uninjured but suffering the aftereffects of an unspecified gas presumably used to incapacitate the militants. The use of gas could not be independently confirmed.

Kolesnikov also said five police officers had been freed from a precinct station where they had been held by militants, and that eight militants had been killed there. Seventeen rebels were detained, the RIA-Novosti news agency quoted Russian Interior Minister Rashid Nurgaliyev as saying.

In the chaos, a definitive casualty toll was not available, but officials on Thursday said at least 85 people, including 61 attackers, had been killed and 103 people injured, according to the ITAR-Tass news agency.

Outside the city, in the suburb of Khasanya, rebels shelled a police car on Friday morning, killing two riot police officers.

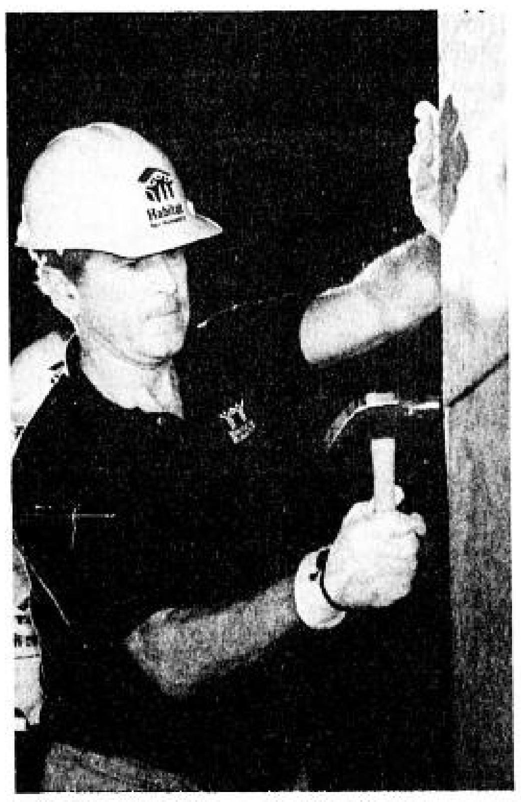
Bloodied bodies from Thursday's fighting still lay in the streets on Friday. A man's body lay near the entrance to police station No. 2 and the regional antiterrorist center, where most of the windows had been blown out and even tramway lines outside had been brought down.

Across the street sprawled seven more bodies, most with horrific head injuries. Heavily armed police poked and kicked at the bodies, presumably those of militants, all dressed in tracksuits and running shoes.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, beleaguered by attacks that have killed hundreds of civilians and underscored his failure to bring the turbulent Caucasus under control, ordered a total blockade of Nalchik to prevent militants from slipping out and ordered security forces to shoot any armed resisters.

ITAR-Tass said that some rebels tried to escape the city in a van but crashed into a tree and were surrounded and killed. RIA-Novosti said there had been seven militants and an unknown number of hostages in the vehicle. The hostages were rescued, it said. *AP*

Americans say Bush will be viewed as a failed leader in poll



BUSH: Unsuccessful president? AP

WASHINGTON—US PRESIDENT George W. Bush struggled Thursday in the face of worsening opinion polls, including one survey that for the first time found a plurality of Americans think he will be viewed as a failed leader.

In a new study by the non-partisan Pew Research Center, 41 percent said that Bush would be an unsuccessful president, up from 27 percent in January and the most expressing that view since he took office in January 2001.

Some 26 percent say he will be successful, down 10 points since January, and 30 percent say it is too early to say, according to the poll, which had an error of margin of plus or minus three percentage points.

The study echoed others in which Bush's job approval ratings had slid to below 40 percent, saying that he stood at 38 percent, and showed the US public increasingly concerned about the war in Iraq.

Just days before Iraqi voters cast ballots on a constitution, 53 percent of respondents told Pew that the US effort there is not going well, while half say the decision to go to war was wrong—up from 44 percent in September.

Roughly the same number said the United States should bring home its forces as soon as possible—48 percent—as keep them there until Iraq is stable—47 percent.

On Wednesday, a poll by the NBC television network and The Wall Street Journal found that a plurality of Americans, 48 percent, said they would prefer the opposition Democrats to control Congress compared to 39 percent who want Bush's Republicans.

The gap between the two parties was the largest recorded since the NBC/Journal poll started asking the question 11 years ago.

The Republicans hold a majority in both houses of Congress and face mid-term elections in November 2006 amid growing public concern over the war in Iraq, the economy, and high gasoline prices.

The poll showed Bush's approval ratings dropping to 39 percent, the lowest of his presidency in the NBC/Journal surveys.

Anxious about Bush's plunging poll numbers, Republicans in Congress have begun to break ranks and defied the White House on important issues.

The poll also revealed overwhelming opposition to Bush among blacks. Only 2 percent said they approved of his performance as president, the lowest level ever recorded in that category, NBC television reported.

Investigations of prominent Republican lawmakers also appear to pose a threat for Bush's party.

Sixty-five percent said charges against Rep. Tom DeLay, who has temporarily stepped aside from his post as House of Representatives majority leader, suggested potential illegal activity.

A majority of 57 percent said an investigation into possible insider trading by the Republican majority leader in the Senate, Bill Frist, indicated possible wrongdoing.

The poll, based on interviews with 807 adults, was conducted between Oct. 8 and Oct. 10 and had a margin of error of 3.4 percentage points. AFP

EU holds bird flu crisis talks

BRUSSELS—EUROPEAN BIRD flu experts were due to hold an emergency meeting on Friday, a day after health officials confirmed what many had long feared was inevitable—the spread of the deadly H5N1 strain from Asia to Europe.

The European Commission said the meeting would look at the risk migratory birds might pose for the EU.

"The experts' groups will then issue recommendations on the potential risk for humans in contact with such birds," it said in a statement.

The World Health Organization sought to calm fears, saying all evidence so far showed that the H5N1 virus does not spread easily from birds to infect humans. It urged countries hit by the outbreak to monitor poultry and people.

Meanwhile, British scientists were also scrutinizing bird flu samples from Romania to determine whether the virus found in three ducks in the Danube Delta last week was H5N1, which has killed more than 60 people in Asia since 2003.

Romania sent the samples to a British laboratory on Thursday afternoon, and Britain's chief vet said she expected the final results to be known sometime on Friday.

EU Health and Consumer Protection Commissioner Markos Kyprianou said on Thursday a bird flu outbreak in Turkey was indeed H5N1—which first surfaced in Hong Kong eight years ago—and that Europe should prepare for a pandemic.

H5N1 is considered the biggest direct disease threat to humanity. Experts estimate that, if it acquires the ability to infect people easily and spread from person to person efficiently, it will make more than 25 million people seriously ill and kill as many as 7 million.

France urged calm on Friday to fight the threat.

"It is something which must be taken seriously. Everything must be done so we are completely mobilized," Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin told Europe 1 radio.

"We must not give in to panic," he said.

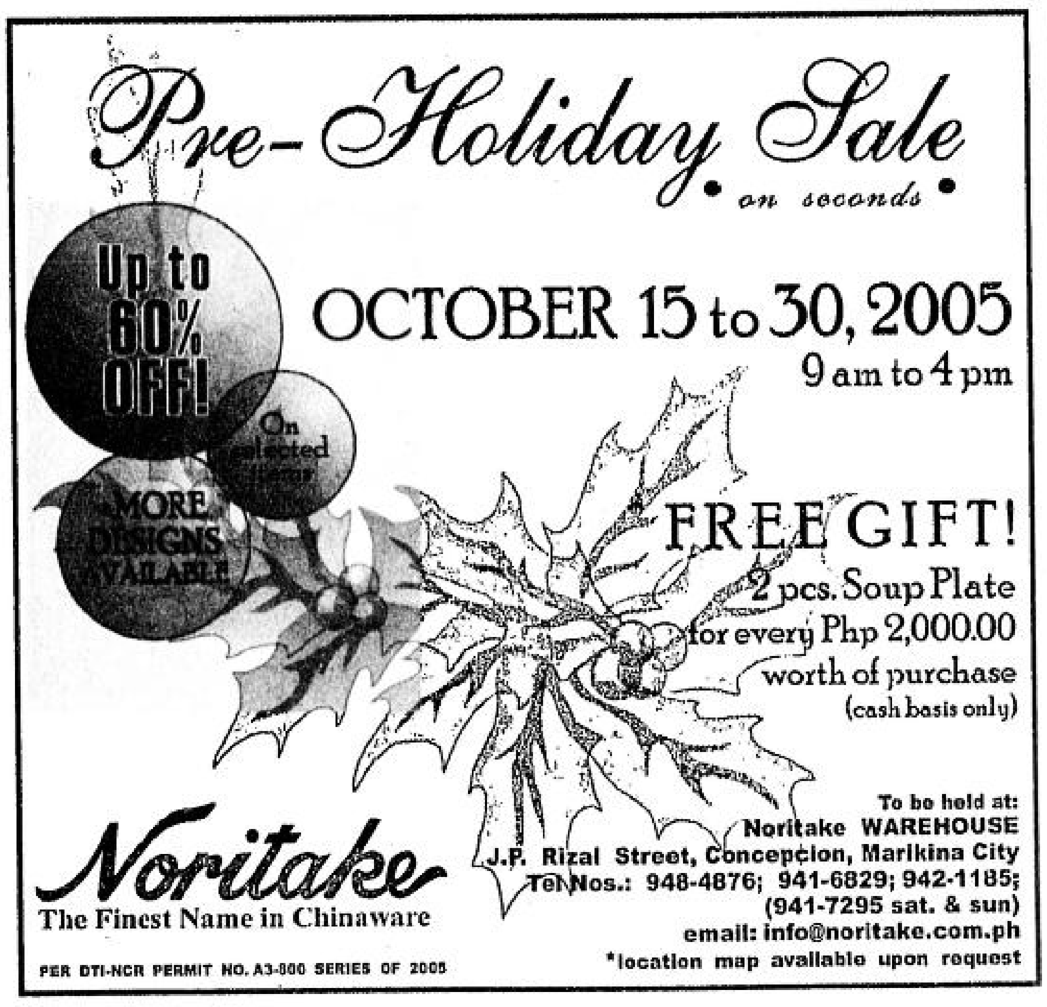
European countries tightened border controls on poultry and poultry products but fear the real threat may come from the skies as returning migratory birds bring the virus home.

Avian flu is currently transmitted to humans only if they eat or live in close contact with infected birds. But scientists say the H5N1 strain is mutating toward a form that could pass between humans.

Migratory birds, usually wild ducks, are a natural reservoir of avian influenza viruses and do not usually become sick when infected. Domestic poultry, including chickens and turkeys, die quickly when infected.

Romania said it had detected bird flu in the delta of the Danube River, Europe's largest wetlands, which host huge numbers of migrant birds from Russia, Scandinavia, Poland and Germany.

The birds mainly move to warmer areas in North Africa including the Nile delta for winter. *Reuters*



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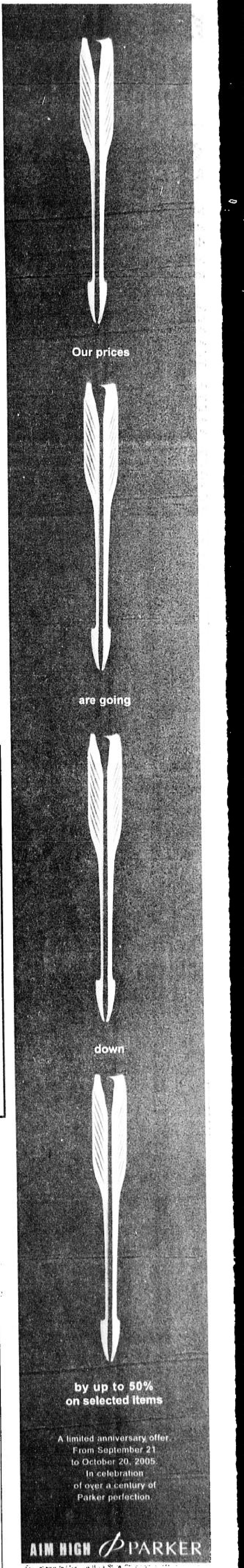

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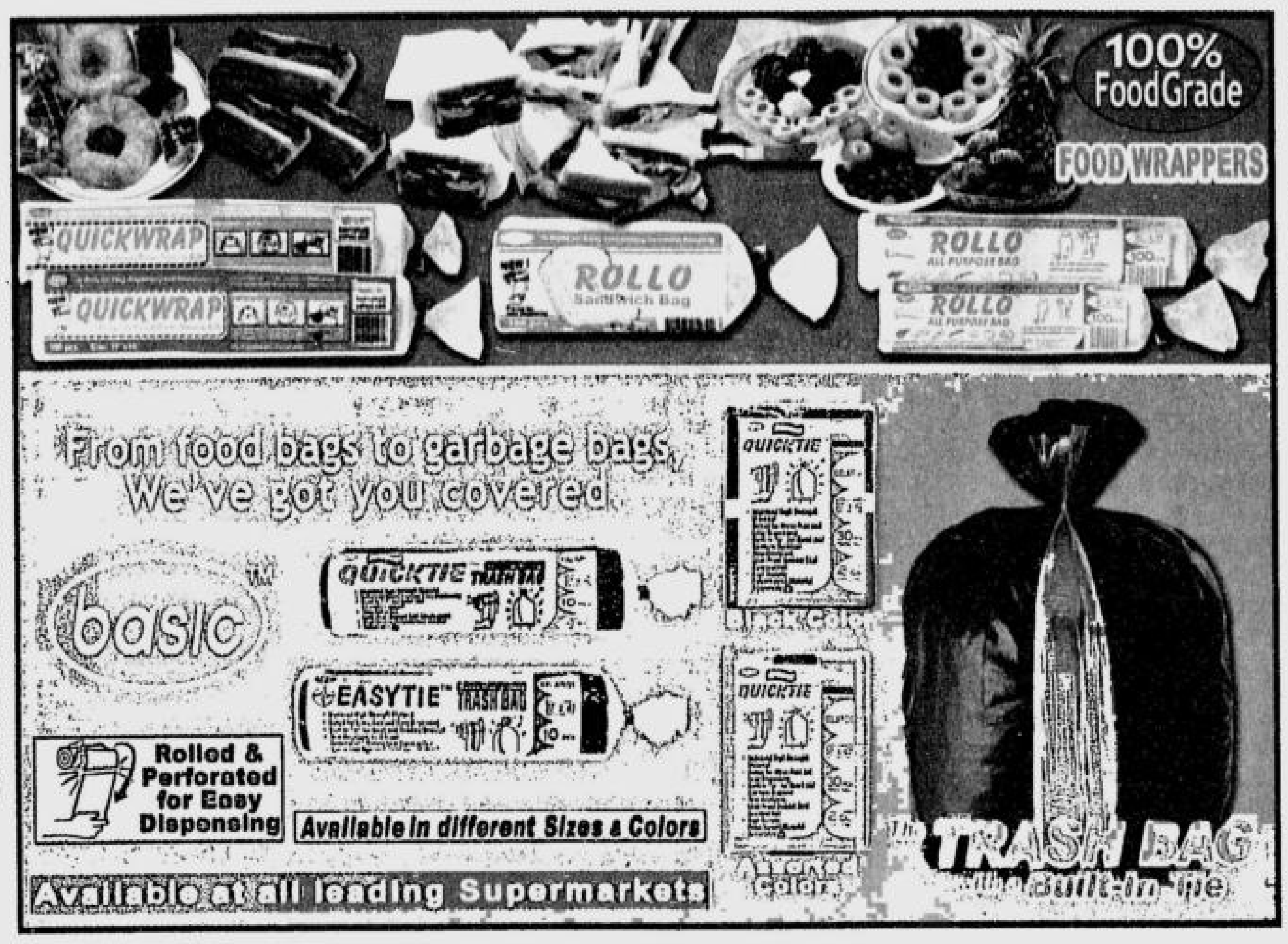
British playwright wins Nobel Literature Prize

But Harold Pinter wonders if his opposition to the Iraq war helped him achieve glory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LONDON—HAROLD PINTER, BRITAIN'S greatest living playwright, is unsure whether the Nobel committee gave him its esteemed prize for literature in part because of his fierce opposition to the US-led war in Iraq.

The Times newspaper also speculated Friday on whether the Swedish Academy had seen Pinter, who wrote his signature works almost half a century ago, as the sharpest stick with which to "poke America in the eye" this year.

Other newspapers, however, merely celebrated the news that the 75-year-old master of the heavy pause had received the 2005 Nobel Prize for literature.

Pinter, who is also well known as an outspoken political campaigner, revealed he only found out he had won the $1.3-million award about 20 minutes before the official announcement on Thursday.

"They called me and said you're going to receive a call from the chairman of the Nobel committee and I think I said 'why'," he told the Guardian newspaper.

Explaining its decision, the jury said Pinter's work "uncovers the precipice under everyday prattle and forces entry into oppression's closed rooms."

The playwright, who is recovering from a fall a couple of days ago and has a bandage on his forehead, told the BBC that he found this remark interesting.

"It implies that they have not only given me this award for my work but for my political engagement, which of course is in my work, I think, anyway to a great extent. You can't divorce one from the other," he said on Thursday night.

PINTER REUTERS

The laureate has actively campaigned against the March 2003 invasion of Iraq, notably calling British Prime Minister Tony Blair a "deluded idiot" and US President George W. Bush a "mass murderer."

He agreed that the timing of his award was curious against the backdrop of the daily chaos in Iraq.

"I feel even more strongly now than I ever did about the mendacity and the corruption and the injustice of so many of the actions taken by what are called freedom-loving Western democracies," Pinter said.

"I view them with contempt and that contempt grows stronger every day. I am talking about the United States and Great Britain."

Pinter said he thought Blair should be brought before the International Court of Justice as a war criminal.

At the same time, he added: "I am actually waiting for flowers from Tony Blair."

The Times also commented on the timing of the Nobel award, saying that there were two explanations.

Either the committee felt that 2005 was a good year to honor a man who wrote his most famous plays in the late 1950s.

Or "Pinter is just about the biggest and sharpest stick with which the Nobel committee can poke America in the eye," it said in an editorial titled "Pause for thought."

The Independent in an editorial called "Pause for applause" said the Nobel Prize for literature was supposed to be controversial and noted that Pinter had more than earned the award with his plays and poetry.

"There can be few British writers working today who have given birth to an adjective, 'Pinteresque,' and evolved a style that has made his name famous even amongst those who would never dream of going to his plays," it said.

"If to be plagiarized is the mark of a good writer, then to be parodied may well be the measure of a great one."

Dubbing Pinter "our grandest and grouchiest playwright," The Guardian said his selection by the Nobel committee was a triumph for Britain's theater culture and for the "multifarious" British language.

Pinter, who was diagnosed with esophageal cancer in December 2002, was born in east London, the son of a Jewish dressmaker. *AFP*

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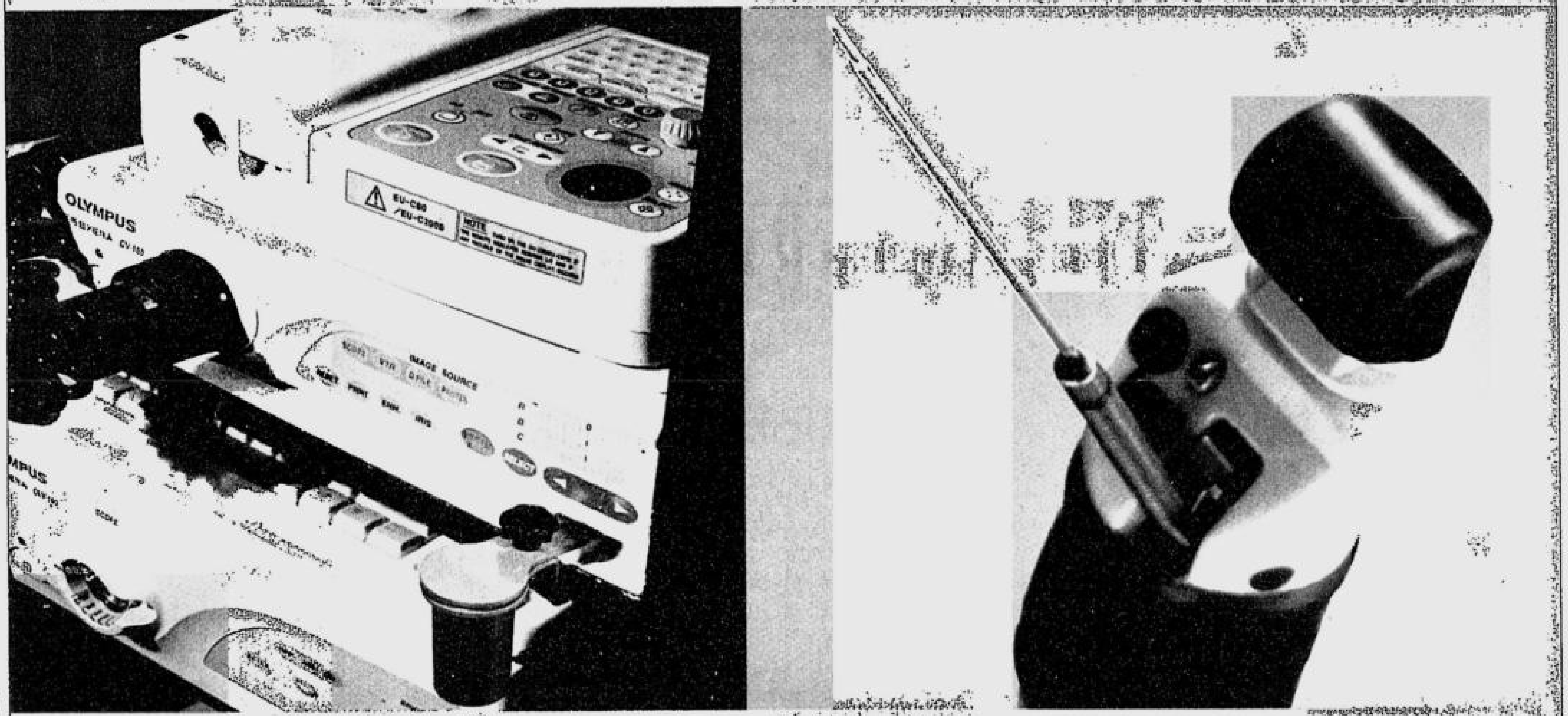

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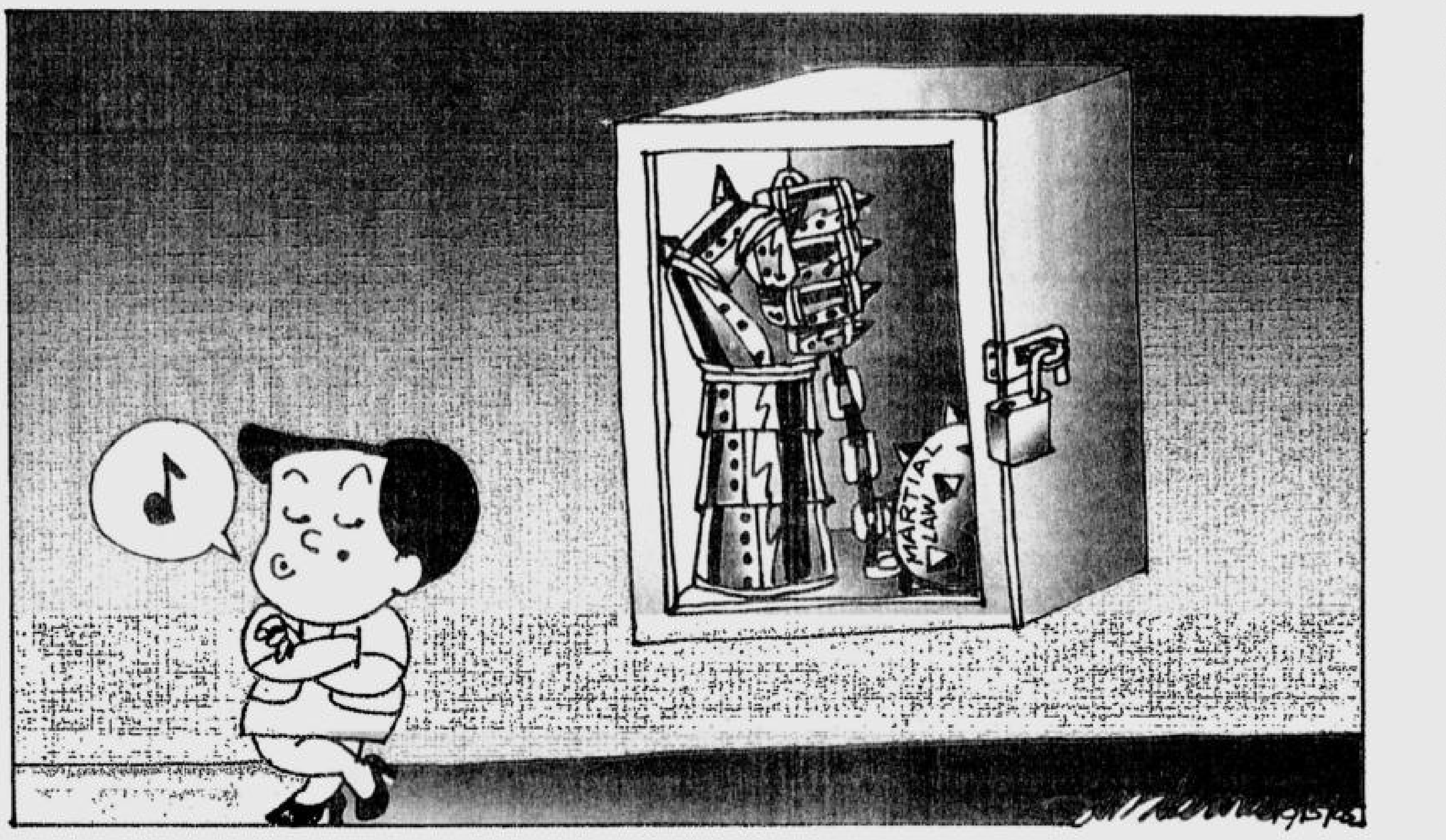

Doctors as nurses

EDITORIAL

THERE'S NO NEED TO BELABOR THE ALLEGED DISadvantages of Filipino doctors working abroad as nurses. According to medical and nursing educators here, two Filipino nurses with medical degrees working in a Texas Hospital had been fired for usurping the roles of doctors on duty. A similar case happened in a British hospital two years ago, they said. The cases are cautionary tales on the hazards of medical graduates switching to nursing, which has become a lucrative profession because of the high demand for nurses and care givers in Western countries. But for health planners and educators to raise the alarm and signal a stop to doctors switching to nursing would be foolhardy. At the very least, it is unjust to Filipino doctors who have successfully switched to nursing and found gainful living out of it abroad.

That doctors who have turned to nursing should experience adjustment woes is expected. It is hard to shed off four years of education in our medical schools, some of which enjoy international accreditation for the quality of their curriculum and instruction. The training does not include four years of pre-medical undergraduate studies. All of these should rub off on one's system. They form a coastal shelf of beliefs and practices that become second nature. Doctors have to be nursed into fine nursing form. To stop them from switching to a medically allied profession is not a remedy.

Medicine does not conflict with nursing; they fit hand in glove. But this seems to be belied by the drift of warnings from the UP National Institutes of Health and the Board of Nursing, which invariably play up the hazards of doctors working as nurses so that the quality and professionalism of both doctors and nurses from the Philippines are denigrated. To be sure, cases of Filipino doctor-nurses usurping the roles of doctors on duties abroad are negligible. They are more the exception rather than the rule.

The naysayers overstate their claim. A member of the Board of Nursing said 40 doctors flunked the nursing licensure exam last June, which she interpreted as an indication that despite their medical training, doctors are not a shoo-in as nurses. But the number is a mere 5 percent of the 800 doctors who took the exam. The fact that 95 percent of doctors passed the exams should reinforce the belief that doctors have the academic and intellectual fitness to switch to nursing.

A member of a UP think tank on public health said that the special program allowing physicians to jump into nursing with relative ease should be stopped. The program requires doctors to complete a year and a half or two years of the regular nursing program before they can take the nursing board exams. Critics want doctors to take up the full four-year term instead.

But for the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and Board of Nursing to rescind the special program would be tantamount to punishing doctors for making a career switch to an allied medical field. It would also penalize them for having taken up medical education, which fully complements the science of nursing. It would also deprive them of the chance to work abroad.

We cannot gloss over the threat posed by the brain drain to Philippine public health, of course. We are sure that the naysayers are compelled by the same concern when they raise arguments against doctors switching to nursing. But the brain drain is an economic phenomenon that could be addressed by economic measures such as reforming the medical system, improving the citizens' access to quality health care, and mandating that graduates of state colleges and universities practice in the public health system for a certain number of years.

Rather than belabor the threat of doctors turning to nursing, the CHED and Board of Nursing should focus on enforcing quality control in nursing education. Even nursing board officials complain that they have been stalled in closing down substandard nursing schools by school owners in cahoots with politicians, some of whom own or have investments in the schools.

A number of computer schools that have put up nursing schools have succeeded in stopping the CHED through political connections and legal maneuvering. The former CHED chair, Fr. Rolando V. de la Rosa, O.P., is facing a libel suit filed by a computer-nursing school after he released findings on poor-performing nursing schools to a number of congressmen, who had asked for the data. The fact that the priest is paying for his own legal defense may show that the CHED has left him to the dogs. It shows the CHED's resolve—or lack of it—to check mercenary nursing schools.

And the tyrant was deposed

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE CONSTITUTION IN ITS ART. VI, SEC. 23(2) provides: "In times of war or other national emergency, the Congress may by law authorize the President, for a limited period and subject to such restrictions as it may prescribe, to exercise powers necessary and proper to carry out a declared national policy. Unless sooner withdrawn by the Congress, such powers shall cease upon its next adjournment."

Concerning the state of emergency being contemplated by President Macapagal-Arroyo presumably to justify her exercise of emergency powers, let me quote from my book on Philippine Political Law, 2002 ed., pp. 92-95 as follows:

"In times of war or other national emergency, it is not likely that a quorum can be convened in the Congress to enable it to do business. Assuming such quorum, there is still the divisiveness and delay inherent in the lawmaking process that may hamper effective solution of the problems caused by the emergency. Such problems, needless to say, must be solved within the shortest possible time to prevent them from aggravating the difficulties of the nation.

"To this end, the Congress may authorize the President to exercise emergency powers. This authority may then be discharged by him with more dispatch and decisiveness than can be expected from the Congress itself dealing with the crisis.

"When emergency powers are delegated to the President, he becomes in effect a constitutional dictator. But in strict legal theory, there is no total abdication of legislative authority in his favor. The conferment itself is subject to certain restrictions and requirements intended to make him only an agent rather than a replacement of the legislature.

"The conditions for the vesture of emergency powers in the President are the following:

(1) There must be war or other national emergency.

(2) The delegation must be for a limited period only.

(3) The delegation must be subject to such restrictions as the Congress may prescribe.

(4) The emergency powers must be exercised to carry out a national policy declared by the Congress.

"There cannot be any delegation of emergency powers in the absence of an emergency. Furthermore, the emergency powers are self-liquidating unless sooner withdrawn, in the sense that they will automatically cease upon the end of the emergency that justified their delegation. Thus, C.A. No. 671, which conferred emergency powers on the President following the outbreak of World War II in 1939, authorized their exercise only 'during the existence of the emergency.'

"'Other national emergency' may include rebellion, economic crisis, pestilence or epidemic, typhoon, flood, or other similar catastrophe of nation-wide proportions or effect.

"Conferment of emergency powers on the President is not mandatory on the Congress. In the face of the worst crisis, the Congress may choose to hold on to its legislative power and validly refuse to delegate it; or should it decide to do so, limit its duration and terminate it even before the end of the emergency. The emergency does not automatically confer emergency powers on the President. According to Chief Justice Paras, 'emergency itself cannot and should not create power.' By the same token, the mere existence of the emergency does not necessarily continue the President's emergency powers if they have been granted to him for a shorter period.

"In every case, to prevent the delegation from being a total surrender of legislative authority, it must be subject to the restrictions to be prescribed by the Congress. The specific requirement of the Constitution is that the President may be authorized to exercise power 'necessary and proper' only for the purpose of carrying out a national policy declared not by him but by the Congress. Any act by the President that is not in keeping with this national policy can be challenged as beyond the limits of his delegated authority."

In the leading cases of Araneta vs. Dinglasan, 84 Phil. 368, and Rodriguez vs. 92 Phil. 603, otherwise known as the Emergency Powers Cases, the Supreme Court ruled against President Elpidio Quirino for his invalid assumption and exercise of emergency powers beyond the period and scope of the delegated authority.

The 1987 Constitution contains new safeguards against the military powers of the commander in chief, but let us be aware of the not-so-obvious catch. Congress may revoke the proclamation of martial law but it may also extend it, and by only a majority vote of all its members, voting jointly. This means that the House of Representatives, as now controlled by GMA, can outvote all the 24 members of the Senate and even extend martial law indefinitely beyond the presidential limit of only 60 days.

In his article last Thursday, Fr. Joaquin Bernas quoted a decision of the Supreme Court asking the people to pray and trust that the President shall not fail them. This was the shameful case of Garcia-Padilla vs. Enrile, 121 SCRA 472, and the President was Marcos. We prayed—oh, how we prayed!—and the tyrant was finally deposed.

Who's afraid of martial law?

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

I AGREE with former President Fidel Ramos that all this talk about martial law, creeping martial law, emergency rule that is really martial law, is a lot of BS. It seems that this BS has been piling up, heaps of it, through the efforts of four groups: (a) those who are congenitally or ideologically prepared to ascribe to President Macapagal-Arroyo every possible evil that can be imagined; (b) those in media who get carried away in their quest for headlines and sales, and either tend to generate news instead of reporting it, or equivalently, report religiously every utterance of those in group (a); (c) those who take the printed or broadcast word as gospel, and don't bother to check it out, panicking because of the excitement generated by groups (a) and (b); and (d) Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, all by his lonesome.

Why is it BS?

We need a trip down memory lane, because what people tend to forget, or never knew, is that the framers of the 1987 Constitution went to great lengths to ensure that no president would ever be able to impose martial law and get away with it the way Ferdinand Marcos did. What safeguards did they impose?

Item: Restricting the conditions under which martial law, or the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, can be declared.

Item: Limiting the duration of marital law and the suspension of the writ.

Item: Giving Congress the authority to revoke such proclamation/declaration.

Item: Giving the Supreme Court the authority to review the sufficiency of its factual basis if requested by any citizen, and preventing it from dilly-dallying.

Item: Limiting the powers of the president during martial law, by stating unequivocally that a state of martial law does not suspend the operation of the Constitution, nor suspend the operations of civil courts or legislative assemblies, does not allow military courts to have jurisdiction over civilians, does not automatically mean suspension of the writ—and if it is suspended it applies only to specific people and for a limited time.

These safeguards are contained in Sec. 18, Art. VII (Executive Department), which must be the longest unsubdivided provision of the Constitution. Everyone who is making noises about the imminent declaration of martial law, or its look-alikes, should read that section, as well as Sec. 23(2) of Art. VI (Legislative Department) and Sec. 1 of Art. VIII (Judicial Department) for reasons which will become clear anon.

Given the above, the only time the president can declare martial law is when there is an invasion or rebellion. Does anybody know of any invasion or rebellion that's going on? This differs from the 1935 Constitution, which not only included "insurrection" as an additional ground for declaring martial or suspending the writ, but also the "imminent danger thereof"—which Marcos invoked.

And if President Arroyo tries to pull off some kind of ridiculous stunt like pretending there is an invasion or rebellion, she can be pulled up short by a majority of Congress voting jointly which, per our trusty 1987 Constitution, if not in session, must convene within 24 hours, without any need for a call.

Should Congress play footsie with the President, the Constitution also authorizes any citizen to go to the Supreme Court and ask it to review the President's action. Furthermore, to stave off any pusillanimity that the Court might suffer (as it did with Marcos), the 1987 Constitution, Sec. 1, Art. VIII), reminds it of its "duty.... to determine whether or not there has been a grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction on the part of any branch or instrumentality of the Government" (*emphasis mine*). Moreover, the Court must promulgate its decision within 30 days of the filing of the case.

You would think that the Constitution would be satisfied with a triple protection against the imposition of martial law. There is a fourth: in case the President somehow gets around the specific conditions, Congress and the Supreme Court, the Constitution says that martial law can only last for 60 days, unless Congress extends it—for a period determined by Congress.

And during all this time, the citizens are protected by the Bill of Rights. Anyone detained during the suspension of the writ has to be released within three days unless judicially charged.

So who's afraid of martial law under the 1987 Constitution? Only those with an overly vivid imagination.

With regard to "emergency rule": While the President can declare a state of national emergency, any emergency powers must be authorized by Congress, under Sec. 23(2) of Art. VI, and for a limited period, with restrictions. This is certainly different from martial law.

A unilateral action by the President can only be exercised, as far as I can see, in Sections 17 and 18 of Art. XII (National Economy and Patrimony), where "the State may, under **reasonable** terms prescribed by it, **temporarily** take over or direct the operations of any privately owned public utility or business affected with public interest" (*emphasis again mine*), and "in the interest of national welfare or defense," the State may "upon payment of just compensation, transfer to public ownership utilities and other enterprises to be operated by the Government."

Something to be afraid of? Not even then. What the President does can still be subjected to judicial review, which as mentioned earlier, is the duty of the courts.

So, no, Virginia. Don't worry about martial law. Worry instead about opening up the Constitution to amendments.

Would China risk destroying its name?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE NORTHRAIL PROJECT IS BEING CRITIcized by the opposition and a suit to derail it may even be filed with the Supreme Court. This is truly lamentable. The 32-km first leg of the northern railway rehabilitation, which is being funded by a very soft Chinese loan for $400 million, will cover Caloocan to Malolos and greatly help decongest Metro Manila (the second leg is projected to run to Clark and the third to Pangasinan). This is because more people working in the metropolis would be encouraged to live outside if there were efficient trains. The fundamental question that ought to be kept in mind is, would two presidents of China, two prime ministers, two heads of Parliament and three ambassadors put in peril this project that's the first Chinese undertaking of its kind in Southeast Asia?

* * *

One allegation is that China would be sending us "slow" trains, whereas we should already be working to have those high-speed trains other big cities abroad have. Here we go again, trying to be mindless copy-cats. Why should we go for the French TGVs or the Japanese bullet trains when we can't even operate regular trains efficiently? If we swing from no trains to high-speed ones overnight, *di araw-araw ang banggaan ng mga tren*. Let's settle for the regular trains (the NorthRail trains will run at 125 to 150 kph, which is good enough for our use). Besides, the bullet trains would be too expensive. Someday we can aspire for such trains but let's perfect the technology for regular trains first.

* * *

The House of Representatives is currently embroiled in a dispute between Lakas and the "other" administration party, Kampi, both of which recognize President Macapagal-Arroyo as their titular head. The dispute involves vital positions expected to be vacated by House members who sided with the opposition during the impeachment process. For instance, Kampi wants to get the chairmanship of the accounts committee headed by Surigao Rep. Ace Barbers, who voted with the opposition. They're batting for Rep. Girlie Villarosa, who worked very hard to keep the pro-administration members from wandering to the opposition, but Lakas members also want its own partymate, Rep. Herminia Ramiro, to get it. Kampi also wants to get the Commission on Appointments seat of Rep. Antonino Roman, but Lakas lawmakers would probably fight for it. Recently, a Kampi member even asked that all leadership posts be declared vacant. It could be a rebellion aimed at Speaker Jose de Venecia which won't help GMA any.

* * *

Political pundits are watching how the two parties will settle their differences. Certainly this is not the time to rock the boat, what with the opposition on a vicious attack mode against GMA. If a new impeachment complaint were to be filed next year, a divided pro-GMA bloc would definitely have a tougher time. More importantly, the Charter change campaign needs their solid support. One solution being eyed is to merge the two political parties, but until this happens, nothing is certain. Ultimately, however, GMA is the only one who can solve the problem.

* * *

A strange clock seems to be operating in the Senate. The Juvenile Justice bill, which seeks to address the anomalous situation of children and youths languishing in adult jails, has been in the legislative mill since the 12th Congress, but lack of time prevented its enactment. Sen. Francis Pangilinan re-filed the bill during the first regular session of this 13th Congress, but observers noted that it didn't move even after a powerful documentary by Ditsi Carolino, titled "Bunso," hit the screen two years ago. It took the CNN report on dismal RP jails to get things moving. The Palace certified the bill as urgent and Pangilinan delivered the sponsorship speech last Oct. 5. Last week, justice committee chair Joker Arroyo submitted the committee report to plenary. Interestingly, its co-sponsor, opposition Sen. Jamby Madrigal, delivered her co-sponsorship speech when the interpellations were well under way already, and it dripped with political innuendoes (she even criticized the fast-tracking of the bill).

* * *

Sources note that several pending bills already reported out by Sen. Edgardo Angara cannot be discussed because few senators are ready to interpellate; they have been too preoccupied with investigations. These are Senate Bill 1943, "Amending the Central Bank Act"; SB 1936, establishing a "Central Credit Bureau and Domestic Credit Rating Agency," and SB 1949, the "Lending Investors Act." Despite the senators' protestations, it cannot be denied that their preoccupation with investigations has affected the Senate's legislative output. In fact, dissatisfaction with its lackluster performance, some critics have pointed out that with four laws passed from July 2004 up to the present and given its budget of P1.336 billion, each law cost taxpayers P300 million!

* * *

Yet, GMA seems not about to give up on the senators. Last Wednesday, the group called the "Wednesday Club" (so called because these former House members meet regularly after their Wednesday session) was most surprised when GMA appeared at their meeting and stayed for more than two hours. Present were Senators Manny Villar, Joker Arroyo, Ralph Recto and Francis Pangilinan, as well as associate members Rolando Andaya Jr. and Michael Defensor. They were later joined by "extended members" Pia Cayetano, Lito Lapid and Ramon Revilla. One source said GMA seemed quite relaxed with the senators as she sipped wine. Among the topics discussed were the anti-terrorism bill of Villar (which she has publicly praised) and a pending offer to buy Transco Corp. (which a senator thumbed down because he felt the down payment was too small).

What am I doing here?

YOUNG BLOOD

Carina L. Calugcug

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

IN THE PAST MONTH, I'VE EATEN FILIPINO FOOD EXACTLY twice: once when my Filipino friend was inspired to cook chicken and pork *adobo*, and the second time, when my parents came to visit me and had the good sense to bring fried fish and shrimps.

Pathetic, but true. In the past month, I've lost count of how many times I've asked myself what the heck I am doing here in Singapore, living alone with nothing else to count on except my 16 years of maturity, or more accurately, the lack of it.

When I was given the opportunity to study abroad, I was very pleased. I thought studying would be a break from the rather monotonous life I had been living.

It was, however, not as easy or as wonderful as I thought it would be, especially because it meant that I had to leave my family behind. Though I consider myself to be quite independent, I wasn't exactly sure how I would fare when placed in such a situation.

When I arrived in Singapore, I was amazed by the clean surroundings. What impressed me even more was that even as modern high-rise buildings were being built, it managed to save its environment and keep it green. I was simply in awe, not because of the country's advanced technology but because such a small country has progressed so much while a much bigger country like the Philippines remained underdeveloped.

But my amazement was soon replaced by a growing lump in my throat. I first noticed it when I saw tall apartment buildings instead of 120-sq m houses. I felt it when I saw buses using camera/TVs for side mirrors. I felt it when I realized that December was light years away from July. And I felt it when I grasped the reality that there was no one to look after me except myself.

But I don't back off from a challenge. In the last few months, I have learned to survive on bread, Sky Flakes, Koko Crunch and Milo whenever I am too tired to go down to the dining hall for breakfast. When it rains and I can't go out for lunch, I eat canned goods which my mom thoughtfully packed for me. When I do go out for lunch, I try not to be too picky, and so I find myself eating chicken more often than not. I've also taught myself to bring a water bottle since buying soft drinks is not an option for me. Finally, I've managed to figure out how to operate the washing machine, though washing by hand is still more reliable and much less expensive.

I wish I could say that those were my only problems. But there are more serious ones. There's sickness and injuries. Then there's homesickness. Minor wounds and ailments I can handle since my mom packed so many medicines that if not for her instructions on which is for which sickness, I wouldn't know whatever they are for. But I don't know if there is a cure for homesickness, which creeps on you when you are in a crowd, or while you're trying to understand your lecture notes, or when you hear a familiar song.

That's when you start looking around, hoping that every person who looks Filipino is actually Filipino. You start eavesdropping on conversations, trying to figure out if the persons were speaking Filipino. One time I heard two women in the bus speaking Bisaya. I wanted to butt in but checked myself for fear of being taken to be rude. Now, I wish I didn't pass up that opportunity.

It's not that people here aren't friendly, because they really are. Still, nothing beats Filipino warmth and hospitality. I never would have imagined myself saying this, but I miss the Philippines and if I were asked if I want to go back, I'd say, "Right now, please."

Up to now, I'm still wondering when I would get to eat Filipino food again. My best bet is that I am going to savor it when I go back home. And when will that be? I have it all figured out very precisely.

Carina L. Calugcug, 16, is a freshman in Industrial and Systems Engineering at the National University of Singapore. She still wonders what she was thinking when she applied for a scholarship.

'Teen Healthquarters'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THIS AFTERNOON, THE MARIKINA TEEN Healthquarters (THQ) formally opens to the public, or at least the segment of the public it's targeting: young adults ages 15-24 years. Aside from the usual rites that mark such occasions, today's inaugural will also be marked by a free concert featuring the bands Side A and Freestyle at the Marikina Freedom Park.

The THQ are youth-friendly centers providing medical and educational services, as well as counseling and referral, under one roof.

How youth friendly are they? To start with, the premises are designed primarily to appeal to young clients, with inviting façades and brightly colored interiors, complemented by attractive posters that appeal to the young. THQ service providers are young, including trained volunteers within the target clientele's age group, who focus on sexual health and relationship concerns. Aside from reproductive health concerns, though, the THQ also addresses other health concerns of the youth: dental care, ear piercing, nebulization and skin care.

To illustrate how effective this last strategy has been, in one existing THQ a young man came for dental services but because a section in the information sheet asks about past sexual relationships, if any, he was referred for a test on sexually transmitted infections. Two weeks later, he returned to thank the nurse because he said he had been diagnosed with gonorrhea.

The THQ is the latest project of the Foundation for Adolescent Development (FAD), which has worked for decades on providing accurate information and values clarification on reproductive health issues, targeting a young audience. The THQ was conceived as not simply a service "outlet," but also as a franchising model, "developing standardization procedures for possible replication by other stakeholders interested in addressing adolescent sexuality, health and development."

* * *

BEFORE MARIKINA, FAD had already partnered with four stakeholders in establishing and operating THQs: Luisita Realty Corp. in Tarlac City, the Baguio Center for Young Adults Inc. in Baguio, the municipality of Dasmariñas in Cavite, and Responsible Parenthood-Maternal and Child Health Association of the Philippines in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

The story of the THQ franchise in Marikina is illustrative not just of how franchising speeds up the transfer of "technology" in the health field, but also of how dynamic and responsive local leadership can speed up the delivery of basic services to citizens.

As FAD president Aurora Silayan Go tells it, they had written to Mayor Marides Fernando of Marikina about the possibility of setting up a THQ and in response the mayor asked the City Health Office to check out the foundation. After FAD presented their concept and plans, the mayor asked the City Council to pass a resolution which would allow her to sign a franchise agreement with FAD. After some back and forth between the foundation and the city government, the license agreement was signed in no time.

"The beauty of it," says Go, "is that in three months, (Mayor Fernando) identified a spot for THQ and asked her office to physically renovate based on our requirements. She then asked the SK Federation to provide funding for our transfer of technology. Between the City Health Office and the SK Federation, the THQ was realized. The mayor of Marikina is quite unique in her process to get things done."

* * *

THE EXPERIENCES of the previous THQs bode well for the future of the Marikina THQ. In Baguio, which was established to cater mainly to the needs of the migrant student population in the "educational center of the North," word-of-mouth has proven to be one of their most effective promotional tools. For every 20 students reached through an educational session (a talk by a THQ resource person, a discussion using FAD's educational modules), at least two visit the THQ for counseling and medical services.

THQ Dasmariñas, on the other hand, has taken the concept of "combo" packages from fast-food outlets and applied it to adolescent reproductive health, offering "a medical service that clients like with health information." For instance, they offer blood typing and weight management education sessions with an ARH video show for only P20 per participant. The THQ staff have also teamed up with barangay officials to bring pap smear exams to residents for just P150, the procedure becoming the entry point for showing videos on contraceptive methods, HIV/AIDS, substance abuse and others.

* * *

WHILE THQ Baguio is targeted at migrant students and THQ Dasmariñas is community-based, THQ Sta. Rosa is geared toward meeting the needs of young, single workers in establishments within industrial zones. FAD's partner in Sta. Rosa, the Responsible Parenthood-Maternal and Child Health Association of the Philippines (RP-MCHAP), has worked since 1985 to promote responsible parenthood through company programs focusing primarily on married workers and their families. The THQ was welcomed by RP-MCHAP as an opportunity to expand its market, while meeting the specific needs of young workers.

THQ Tarlac appeals to a wider swathe of clients, teens and young adults who frequent the Luisita Mall. Located on the second floor, adjacent to movie houses and the Fun House where high school and college-age youth congregate, the THQ enjoys high visibility and easy accessibility. THQ Tarlac staff and volunteers bring in clients by distributing flyers to passersby, and inviting them to come in and watch educational videos, play board games, browse the library and surf on the Internet, a very popular service which serves as a bridge to introduce other services of the THQ.

The Aragoncillo caper

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA—A MONTH AFTER the arrest of Leandro Aragoncillo and his friend Michael Ray Aquino for espionage, they are still the talk of the town especially in California where many Filipinos live. There's something surreal about this chain of events, which is being characterized as an espionage case. Denied bail, they are sitting in jail facing at least three criminal counts for passing classified information involving a foreign government, and will be tried on espionage charges.

I'm a great reader of spy stories and watcher of classic spy movies, sometimes re-reading or reviewing them to understand the intensity or complexity of what's involved. I don't know what to think of this supposedly espionage case, but both men appear to be not only clumsy "spies" but pretty dumb ones. They'd make great company for the late Mata Hari, who gave herself away with an opera ticket.

Did Aragoncillo, a highly decorated Marine with a top-secret security clearance, not read the Patriot Act, which federal authorities used to confiscate dozens of e-mails from his computer? He had earned six Good Conduct Medals and a Humanitarian Service Medal in his 21-year military career.

Following the two suspects' arraignment, FBI Special Agent in Charge Leslie Wiser Jr., declared that "crimes like these strike at the heart of our national security." He added that the defendants will face the "full weight of federal prosecution." But Aquino, who is not a US citizen, could go through deportation or exclusion proceedings.

For now, both men are charged with conspiracy to defraud the US government and acting as "unregistered agents of a foreign government." The charge carries a maximum term of 15 years in prison and a $500,000 fine. Aragoncillo is additionally charged with the "unauthorized use" of a government computer to obtain and transmit classified information, with a maximum sentence of 10 years and a fine of $250,000. Certainly, he must have known all these when he was working in the White House and later with the FBI.

The intriguing question is, what's in it for Aragoncillo? What was his motive? A New Jersey newspaper reported that federal authorities had indicated he was concerned about a "potential regime change in his homeland." He called attention to his suspicious activities when he showed undue attention to the immigration case against Aquino, who had been arrested earlier for overstaying his visa.

Since loyalty to a friend no matter how dear seems like a superficial reason for jeopardizing an unblemished career, was there a deeper, perhaps more sinister motive? We have all kinds of conspiracy theories when we hear of cases like this, but we'll probably never know what was going through Aragoncillo's brain when he was passing those e-mails. Was money a major motive, as it has been in many espionage cases?

On the part of the supposed conspirators in the homeland, what "dirt" could they have been expecting about President Macapagal-Arroyo that they didn't already know? Were they hoping that Aragoncillo's e-mails would unravel information that would be so damaging to Ms Arroyo, like the US withdrawing support from her administration? Or perhaps, information that would put the United States in cahoots with her administration in terms of stifling critics? Finally, is this a case of a breach of US national security as alleged, or just a tempest in a teapot?

This is happening at a time when another former analyst for the Pentagon admitted passing secrets to Israel. Lawrence Franklin, 58, a former Pentagon analyst on Iran, recently pleaded guilty to conspiring to channel classified Defense Department information to an Israeli Embassy official and to a pro-Israel lobby group. He faces the penalty already mentioned: 10 years in the slammer and a $250,000 fine.

But Franklin has concluded a plea bargain with federal authorities, agreeing to cooperate in the prosecution of two recently dismissed officials of the powerful lobby group, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, who were indicted for "conspiring to receive and disseminate the classified information." Authorities would not disclose what kind of "cooperation" was expected of Franklin. They also would not say if the Justice Department was interested in investigating whether anyone else was involved in the criminal investigation, including representatives of the Israeli government or members of the Israeli Embassy.

It is alleged that during those meetings with Israeli agents, Franklin divulged secrets, such as a draft of a US administration policy on Iran and information about "potential attacks on US forces in Iraq." The Franklin indictment said he had met with Israeli lobbyists Steven Rosen and Keith Weismann in "restaurants, a health club and other venues in the Washington area starting in February 2003."

It has been reported that Aragoncillo is "cooperating" with federal authorities and it wouldn't be surprising if he reaches a "plea bargain" with the authorities to save his skin, at least to get a reduced sentence. A recent Los Angeles Times dispatch reported that Aragoncillo's alleged disclosures have not damaged US national security. The report further said: "The larger question being examined is that, this guy went from the Marines to the vice president's office to the FBI, and why wasn't this caught along the way?"

Why, indeed, was he not caught earlier? Well, one reason, among others, is that the Philippines is not as crucial as Israel or Iran or Iraq in terms of US national security.

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IN THE NEWS

Leandro Aragoncillo

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
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Perceptions vs pangs of hunger

THE SOCIAL WEATHER STAtions' survey saying more Filipinos are going hungry (PDI, 9/23/05) came at a most opportune time—the people of the world will observe World Food Day on Oct. 16.

The SWS survey from Aug. 26 to Sept. 5 showed that 15.5 percent of households nationwide considered themselves as having "experienced hunger" or had nothing to eat, at least once in the past three months. That was higher than the findings of the SWS survey conducted in May, which showed only 12 percent of all households falling into the category of having "experienced hunger."

The Rice Watch and Action Network (R1) believes that access to food is a universally recognized human right. It is the responsibility of the state to ensure the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger.

The same news article reported that Malacañang's response to this problem was to launch rice subsidy and food-for-work programs targeting schoolchildren and the unemployed in the country's poorest provinces.

R1, a coalition of non-government organizations defending the livelihood of small rice farmers, is not anymore surprised by the government's predictable stop-gap measures. The government refuses to accept that the high poverty incidence in the rural areas is caused by the country's dependence on imports, particularly rice, to feed its people. The government would do better if it supported the farmers to attain self-sufficiency in rice.

In a press statement, Secretary Rigoberto Tiglao said that the same SWS survey showed 49 percent of those polled perceived themselves to be poor. He said this was a sharp decline from the 57 percent in the SWS survey of May 2005, and this was the more fundamental trend emerging from the surveys.

We thank the secretary for stating the obvious. The government is merely looking at the perception of the people on how poorer they have become under this administration and not at the people who have actually experienced hunger.

The people will have to wait for urgent measures to fill their hunger.

—JESSICA REYES-CANTOS,
lead convenor,
Rice Watch and
Action Network (R1),
40 Matulungin St.,
Barangay Central, QC

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LETTERS

New kind of patriot

SEN. PING LACSON HAS GIVEN A new meaning to the word patriot in claiming Michael Ray "Ninoy" Aquino is one. There is a whale of a difference between obsequious servility to unscrupulous politicians on the one hand, and loyalty and devotion to one's country on the other.

Aquino fled to the United States and was declared AWOL by the PNP after he was implicated in the Dacer-Corbito double murder case. Now he is implicated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in a high crime for passing stolen secret documents to his political handlers.

A genuine patriot, Haydee Yorac, is remembered for serving her country well throughout her professional life, in a way tempered with justice, dignity and respectability. Can one say even a bit as much about Aquino who is best remembered as Lacson's subservient handyman and now a fugitive from Philippine justice?

—CESAR M. DE LOS REYES,
cesdlrey@i-manila.com.ph

Who's afraid of the truth?

WE ALL KNOW THAT "SEQUEStering the truth" is worse than an outright lie.

Upon Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's order, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales refused to disclose to the Senate's national defense and security committee the source(s) of the funds paid to cover the initial fees on the contract with Venable LLP, an American lobby group, whose services were engaged to solicit from the US Congress more funds for Malacañang's initiatives to amend the Philippine Constitution.

Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano vanished under circumstances that justifiably raised suspicions that Malacañang had a hand in his disappearing act. Right now, he cannot be investigated or asked about the "Hello Garci" tape, which has fueled as much suspicion that GMA had a hand in the rigging of the 2004 presidential election.

GMA has been handsomely rewarding the corrupt congressmen who voted against her impeachment, thus depriving the Filipino people of their right to know the truth about election fraud and other irregularities the Arroyo administration has been accused of.

Some influential members of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) appear to have been bribed by GMA with Pagcor money to support the concerted efforts to conceal the truth from the people.

Of late, one of the very few decent officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani, has been ordered court-martialed because he defied a GMA order not to testify in the Senate investigation on the possible involvement of military officers in the rigging of the 2004 election.

Why the gag if GMA believes she is innocent of charges against her? There is nothing to fear when there is nothing to hide. And, why warn and threaten Gudani with court martial even before he could testify? This could only be because GMA knew beforehand that what Gudani was about to tell the Senate could only be something not to her liking.

Court martial an officer just for telling what he knows about the reported cheating in the 2004 elections? Where is justice there?

Is GMA afraid of the truth? Only liars are afraid of the truth.

—REX G. RICO,
rico_associates@yahoo.com

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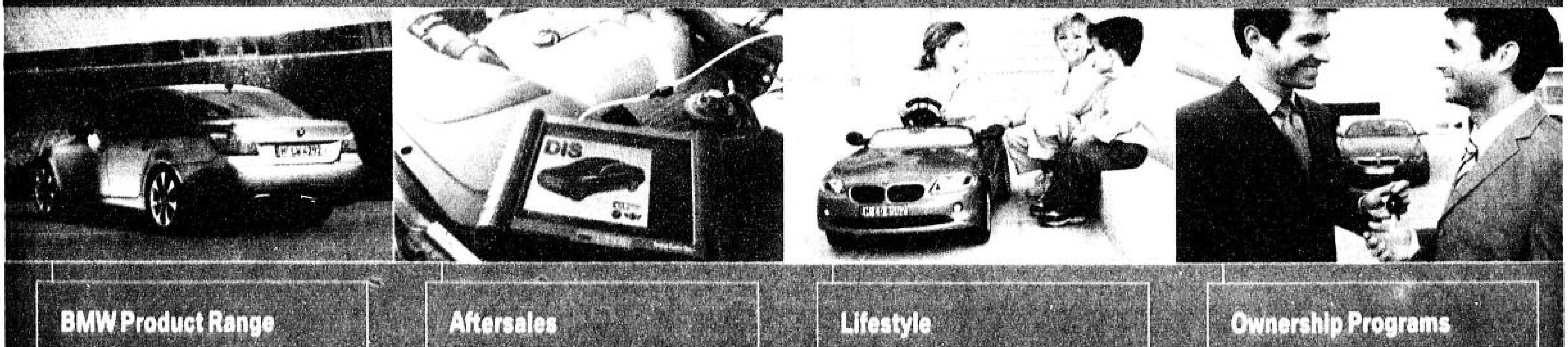

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₱50B in loans offered for ethanol

BACOLOD CITY—THE DEVELOPMENT BANK OF the Philippines (DBP) has made available P50 billion in loans for those who want to venture into ethanol production, according to Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban.

He told the leaders of the sugar industry on Wednesday that the loans were open to whoever was interested to put up an ethanol plant.

He added that other financial institutions were also prepared to allocate substantial amounts for the purpose.

Panganiban said he was optimistic on the future of the sugar industry with the expected production to meet ethanol and sugar needs.

The secretary was here on Wednesday, among others, to meet the leaders of the Confederation of Sugar Producers Associations led by Reynaldo Bantug and Sugar Regulatory Administrator James Ledesma in Bacolod City.

President Macapagal-Arroyo earlier launched a national bio-ethanol program to push for the use of ethanol as a fuel additive to steer away from too much dependence on oil imports.

Ethanol, which can be produced from sugarcane, is seen as a cheaper substitute to imported fuel. It is also seen as cleaner fuel compared to fossilized energy sources like diesel and coal.

DBP president Reynaldo David, in an article posted at the bank's website, said that DBP has committed to set aside P50 billion to help finance new and renewable energy projects in the country.

The commitment was made during the Philippine Wind Energy Summit held at the Intercontinental Hotel last Dec. 9.

During the meeting here on Wednesday, the sugar industry leaders asked Panganiban to coordinate efforts to ensure that agricultural concerns were taken into consideration in the push by the Department of Energy for the production of ethanol.

They said there was a need to ensure a balance between sugarcane for ethanol production and those needed for food.

"We have to prepare the groundwork for expanded production to meet ethanol needs and anticipate problems," Ledesma said.

Panganiban said he will see to it that the agriculture sector is represented in the bio-ethanol ad hoc committee that will be created by the DA.

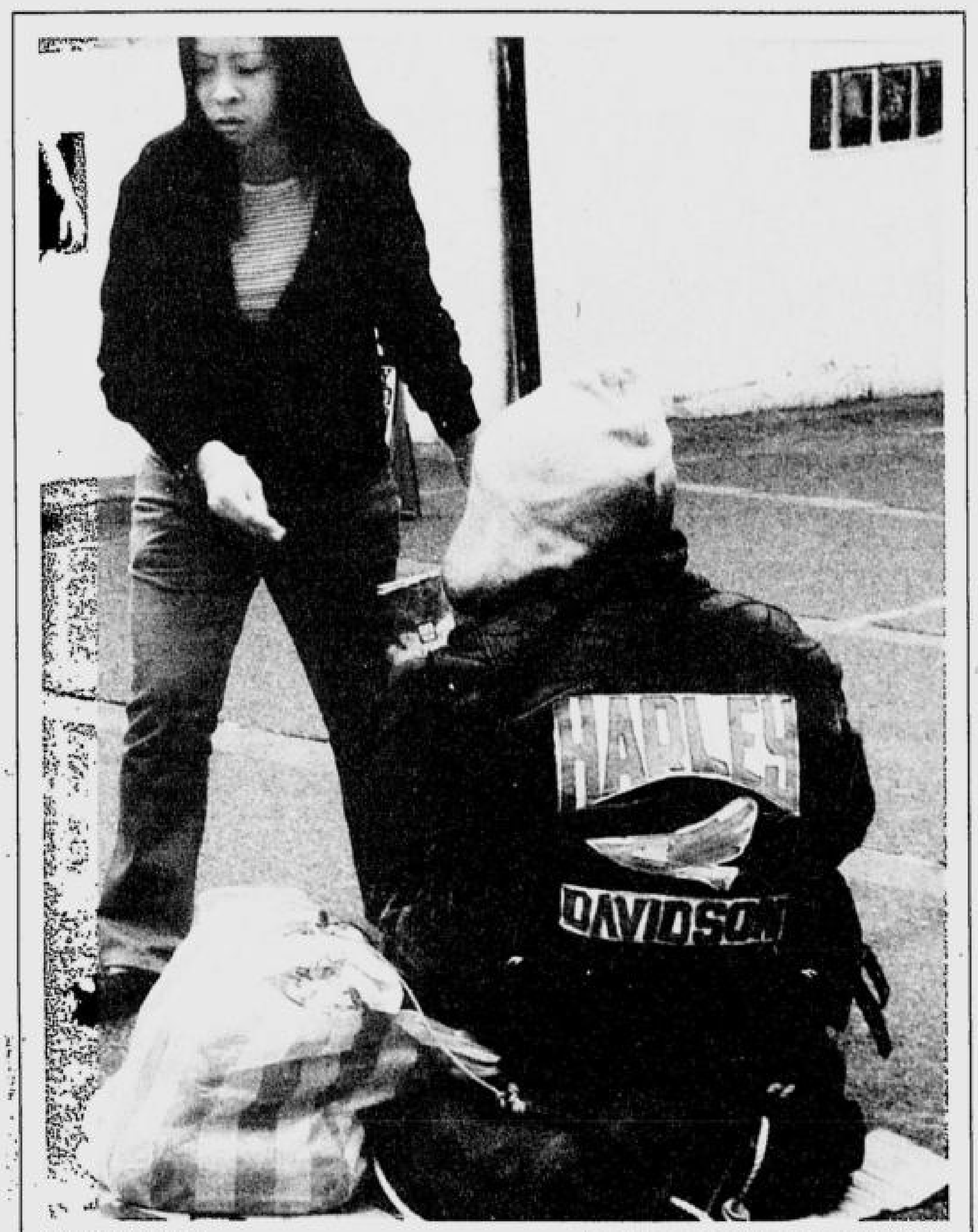
"We will have to put a balance between ethanol and food needs," he said.

Ledesma said that at present, sugar was selling at an average of P950 per 50-kilo bag (lkg) and P1,000 in some areas.

He added the United States might increase its quota allocation for sugar from the Philippines after about 9 percent of its sugar production was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina and 50 to 75 percent by Hurricane Rita.

"The United States may be faced with a shortfall of 500,000 metric tons of sugar," he said.

With the demand for sugarcane for ethanol production, Ledesma said he expected cane production to initially increase by 20,000 hectares from the current 360,000 hectares. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*



COLD CASH VINCENT CABREZA/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Everyone today probably wants to earn extra income this way. This crippled Baguio beggar, however, does it in style, now that the city air has gotten back its winter chill.

Demand for micro hydro power plants grows

By Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SAGADA, MT. PROVINCE—THE DEMAND for micro hydro power plants in farming villages in at least four Cordillera provinces has been increasing amid rising costs of electricity and the energy crisis, according to a research group promoting alternative energy use in local villages.

"Because of the power hike, villages [in the Cordillera] are more inclined to establish micro hydro power dams as alternative sources of energy. With micro hydro dams, they know that they would spend less than the electricity powered by large dams," said Luis Edpis, field worker of the Montañosa Research and Development Center (MRDC).

Edpis said villagers in Mt. Province, Ifugao, Kalinga and Abra have signified their interest in using the micro hydro technology.

Edpis said Mt. Province officials have identified at least 12 villages as potential areas for its operations.

He said they are conducting a feasibility study in Barangay Betwagan in Sadanga, Mt. Province to tap its rivers to produce electricity.

Residents in Barangay Mabaka in Balbalan, Kalinga, he said, wanted to put up a micro hydro dam to power their rice mill and light their houses.

Edpis said Cordillera villagers, many of them farmers, accept the technology because they find it more economical and environment-friendly.

"At P22 a month, they already have electricity in their houses and rice mills. The fee is not intended for profit, it goes to the operation and maintenance of the facilities," Edpis said.

The responsibility of managing the facilities also rests on villagers and this prompts cooperation in the community.

In a study, Abozaid Kazan, an MRDC member, said the micro hydro project has enabled villagers to develop their resources while ensuring equitable access to electricity, as shown by the experience of Sitio Chapyusen in Barangay Can-eo in Bontoc, Mt. Province.

Kazan said building and using micro hydro dams also open up opportunity for people to participate in all phases of the project.

"The institutionalization of ubfo (cooperation) in community mobilization [resulted in] a positive outcome by restoring traditional cooperative practices and free use and exchange of individual skills to achieve a common objective," Kazan said.

The ubfo, an indigenous system of cooperative labor exchange, was institutionalized and strengthened through the communities' management of micro hydro dams and its facilities.

Kazan said residents of Chapyusen provided free labor when their village's micro hydro facility was built.

When the dam was inaugurated on July 18 this year, its power generator was switched on to provide electricity to the 24 families in the community.

Kazan said the Chapyusen Mangum-uma Organization, a cooperative managing the facility in Barangay Can-eo, had set a P20 monthly fee for use of electricity generated by the micro hydro plant.

He said the amount was lower than the P190 that villagers used to spend monthly on kerosene and batteries.

Robert Pangod, an MRDC researcher, said since the early 1990s, groups advocating environment protection have been campaigning for micro hydro dams as sources of environment-friendly energy in the region.

"When the construction of the Chico Dam (in Kalinga) was stopped in 1980, there were questions on what would be the alternatives to large dams which can benefit farming villages in the Cordillera," he said.

He said communities could maintain micro hydro dams and their technology would encourage villagers to protect their forests and watersheds because water drives the plants' generators.

"This creates consciousness among members of the community that it is a community-owned technology and they could create policies to sustain and share the power supply," he said.

AFP chief tells troops in Cebu to stay loyal to command chain

By Connie E. Fernandez
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—HIS SPEECH DID NOT LAST LONGER than 10 minutes but the message of Lt. General Generoso Senga, Armed Forces chief of staff, to the soldiers of Central Command (Centcom) was clear: Be united and follow the chain of command.

Senga reminded about 200 enlisted personnel on Wednesday night that they were trained to follow orders.

"During (our) training, we all stood in attention. When we were told to face to the right, we all faced to the right. When we were told to move forward, we all moved forward. That is our discipline," he said.

"*Kung ano ang sinabi, kung ano ang inutos* ... everybody follows," he said.

Senga met about 200 personnel, mostly from Centcom's Metro Cebu-based units at the Bondad Hall inside Camp Lapulapu, Centcom Headquarters in Barangay Lahug this city.

It was Senga's first visit in Centcom since he assumed as Armed Forces chief of staff in August. Before meeting with the soldiers, he held a two-hour closed-door command conference with Centcom officers from different units in the Visayas.

In his speech, Senga urged them to remain united and focus on their jobs in the wake of supposed disunity in the military reported in the media.

He said they should set aside their personal interests because if they do so, they would not able to do their jobs right.

Instead, Senga said they should remain disciplined, obedient to the chain of command, dedicated to the AFP organization and professional soldiers.

"The discipline of the unit is dependent on the discipline of the soldiers," he added.

Senga told reporters in an ambush interview later that the message of his speech had nothing to do with what happened to retired Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani and Lt. Colonel Alexander Balutan.

The two Marine officers are facing charges of violation of Article of War 65 (willfully disobeying a superior officer) for defying Malacañang's gag order when they testified before a Senate investigation on alleged election fraud.

He said it was just a "constant reminder" for the soldiers and not because "something was going on elsewhere."

OFW buried amid calls for justice

By Felipe V. Celino
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY—THE BODY OF MA. ALINE ARguelles-Blanco, the Capiceña domestic helper who reportedly committed suicide in Singapore last month, will be buried today in her hometown amid calls for justice from her family who believed she was murdered.

Blanco, 41, of Poblacion Campo, President Roxas, Capiz, will be buried at 2 p.m. today at Corinthian Memorial Park in President Roxas town.

Her family was asking the government to help them attain justice as they suspected there was foul play on her death.

Blanco's body arrived in Manila from Singapore through Philippine Airlines last Sept. 28 and airlifted to Capiz on Sept. 30.

When Dr. Nicasio Botin, medico legal from the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) conducted a re-autopsy, the family said Aline had no broken bones that would prove that she indeed jumped to her death. All she had was a fractured skull, which could have been hit by a hard object.

The family also wondered why Blanco's genitalia had stitches.

Botin said he already conferred with Blanco's family and would publicly release the results of his autopsy only after the Singaporean authorities have released theirs so he could compare the results.

Blanco's body was already autopsied by Singaporean government when it was repatriated to the country.

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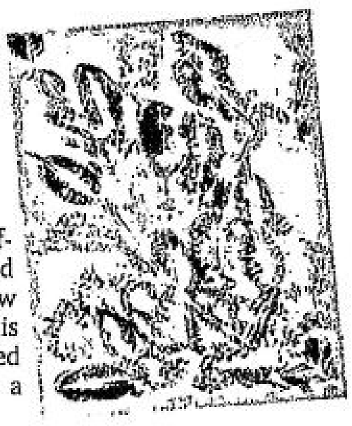
VISUAL artist Armando E. Toleza of Calbayog City poses before some of his works during his 10th solo exhibit held Aug. 9 to Sept. 9 this year at the I-Hope Art Café in Calbayog City. PHOTOS BY VEN LABRO

Calbayog pays tribute to visual artist

By Vicente S. Labro
Calbayog City

NEITHER AGE NOR A MILD stroke could stop visual artist Armando Escobar Toleza from pursuing his passion for painting, even as his hometown recognizes his contribution to their place.

Toleza, 66, a retired government employee and a native of Calbayog City in Samar province, was bestowed last Sept. 5 the Dungog Kahiaraan for visual arts from his fellow Calbayognons, in recognition of his efforts to enhance culture and the arts in their city. The awarding was one of the highlights of this year's celebration of the Calbayog City fiesta on Sept. 8.



TOLEZA'S "Leaves of Summer" in mono print

Toleza suffered a mild stroke a few days after his entry titled "Journey to a Crowded Room" garnered second place in the 57th Art Association of the Philippines annual competition that was held at the GSIS Museum in Manila in December last year.

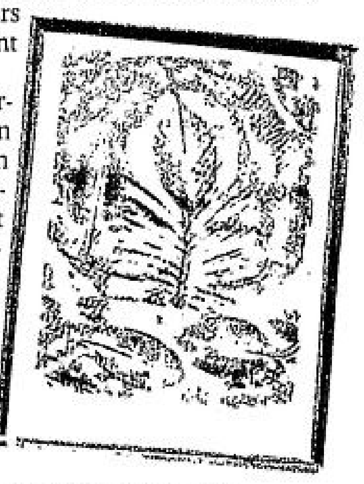
But despite his health condition and age, Toleza continued to paint and do other visual arts after only a few months of rest.

Last Sept. 9, Toleza concluded his month-long 10th solo exhibit dubbed "Thoughts of a Wonderful World," which showcased his works in mixed media using geometrical foam, board cuts, papier-maché, fine prints, acrylic on canvas and "a taste of New York."

The exhibit, held at the I-Hope Art Café at corner Bugallon and Rama streets in Calbayog, showcased 35 of Toleza's artworks, among them the "Journey to a Crowded Room," "The Miracle of Love," "Red Carpet," and "Peace Process," all in mixed media; "Forest in Bloom" and "Laric Falls," both in acrylic; and "Leaves of Summer," "Stairway to Heaven" and "Flowers in Bloom," all in mono print.

Teacher

Toleza is a former elementary school teacher, who had taught children's arts among other subjects, and a former assistant chief of the City Arts and Cultural Office where he spent the last three years of his government service.



TOLEZA'S "Dance in Circle" in mono print

He has no formal schooling in fine arts but in 1979, noted painting and print artist Raul Isidro, a fellow Calbayognon, took him in.

The hours spent in the stable of Isidro so honed Toleza's talent and creativity that he started joining group exhibits and eventually held his solo exhibits.

In 1998, he was one of the 100 artists nationwide who were invited to join the art exhibit that was held in celebration of the Philippine Centennial.

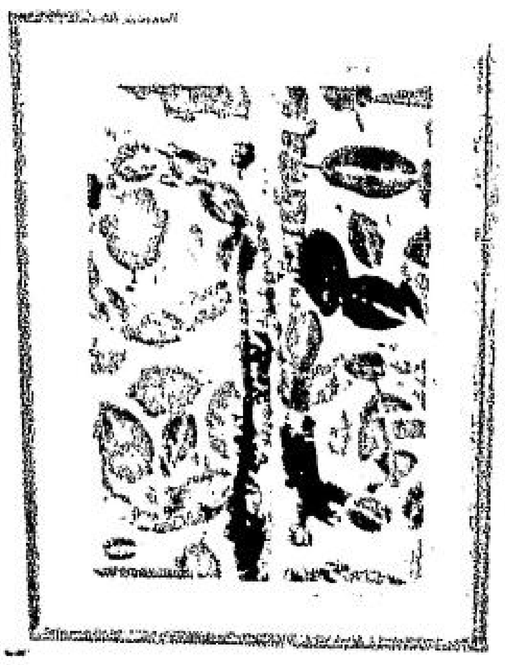
In September 2003, Toleza and eight other local artists put up an exhibit dubbed "Tugahan nga Ladawan san Isla san Samar (Enchanted Scenes and Images of Samar)," featuring some 70 paintings of landscapes, old churches, old houses, people and their livelihood in Samar Island.

These paintings were shown in the three Samar provinces and were later brought to New York City.

Toleza, who was able to accompany the artworks that were displayed at the Philippine Center at 5th Avenue, New York City, said many Americans bought their paintings.

After suffering from mild stroke late last year, Toleza had to rest for some time. "But in my house, I always see my unfinished work. I picked them up one at a time (to finish the work) until I decided to have one more solo exhibit," he said, adding that the stroke has affected only his left hand but not his right hand that he uses in painting.

His just-concluded 10th solo exhibit has drawn many prominent Calbayognons and visitors to buy his work. At present, Toleza is busy working on a painting that will be his entry to the Philippine Morris Philippine Arts Awards slated on Oct. 28 in Manila.



TOLEZA'S "The Golden Horizon," an acrylic painting, was among the 35 artworks displayed during his 10th solo exhibit in Calbayog City.

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James . . .

From page A1

the CIA—introduced its first publicly accessible website, raising the hem of its cloak (if not its dagger) to just a modicum of scrutiny.

So intense was the interest in this move by an intelligence service—once so secret that it denied its own existence—that the site recorded 3.5 million hits in its first few hours, slowing access to a crawl, said Nev Johnson, a British Foreign Office press officer who speaks on behalf of the Secret Intelligence Service.

Recruiting spies

The agency developed the site primarily to recruit agents, operatives and analysts from a much broader academic and social background than in the past and to let would-be spies know how to join.

So wide is the net that the site has versions in Spanish, French, Arabic, Chinese and Russian.

"After the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, SIS developed its already emerging response to the challenges which are now so dominant: regional instability, terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and serious international crime," reads a section of the Web site chronicling the organization's history since its founding in 1909.

Playing catch-up

In some ways, the Secret Intelligence Service is playing catch-up to MI5, Britain's domestic intelligence agency, whose website draws in the bulk of its recruits. MI5 has already said it wants to increase its officers by 50 percent to 3,000 by 2008, while the SIS has not made known its targets.

"It would be counterproductive to talk about target numbers of staff or anything like that," said Johnson, the spokesman. *New York Times News Service*

Palace sowing fear factor, says Joker

From page A1

of martial law," had built-in safeguards that would preclude an "irresponsible use" of emergency powers by the President.

Two days after Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita admitted that an emergency declaration was an option for Ms Arroyo, Malacañang yesterday appeared to step back from his remarks.

"This is an extremely hypothetical situation that we should not fret over," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

GMA laughing?

He said the President had no plans to declare an emergency rule anytime soon because "her existing powers are enough to handle the current situation."

"Rumormongers should lay this martial rule issue to rest. The security situation is well under control. Destabilization is ebbing and we are going back to normalcy," Bunye said in a press statement.

Two administration congressmen said Ms Arroyo had personally assured them she had no intention of proclaiming martial law.

"The President said it is overblown," Rep. Marcelino Libanan, vice chair of the House justice committee, told the INQUIRER, referring to reports about a possible emergency rule.

Rep. Prospero Pichay, vice chair of the Commission on Appointments, said: "The President is nearly laughing."

But political risk analyst Rex Robles, a retired Navy commodore linked to coup attempts in the 1980s, sees nothing amusing in all the talk about emergency rule.

Dangers of emergency rule

Robles said the military had chosen not to intervene in the current political uncertainty because it found the "current set of alternatives unappetizing."

But things could come to a head, Robles warned.

"If she declares emergency rule or its equivalent, she will play into the hands of progressive groups in the military, who may be encouraged even more to go into extreme options, such as pure [military] takeover," he said.

By progressive groups, Robles was referring to radical young officers.

Congress approval needed

Senator Arroyo, who battled late dictator Ferdinand Marcos' martial law edicts in court, joined protest marches against him and was jailed for months, said Ms Arroyo and her Cabinet knew that the President could not assume emergency powers without the approval of Congress.

"There are so many restrictions in the Constitution and they know it cannot be done. But it serves those threats even if they know those threats cannot be carried out. They are happy because those threats sow fear in the opposition ranks."

He said it was the Arroyo administration that was damaging the country releasing all this "hot air."

The fear factor

"What they miss out is [that] the fear factor they generate is the cause of destabilization, of uneasiness. That is not statesmanship, that is irresponsible adventurism," Arroyo said.

The senator criticized Ms Arroyo for attacking the Senate and her critics.

He said the President should show "rapprochement not vindictiveness" after her congressional allies quashed the impeachment cases against her.

"The winner, not the vanquished, should take the initiative in reuniting the people."

Two opposition figures first alerted the media late last month to their fears of a possible emergency rule.

Gonzalez's admission

The talk snowballed after Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said that he had on his own—and supposedly without Ms Arroyo's knowledge—admitted he had drafted a proclamation of emergency intended to address an economic crisis and authorizing Ms Arroyo to take over key industries, including the utilities and power sectors.

Last Thursday, Ermita said Malacañang was keeping an emergency proclamation an option in case of a terrorist attack, a breakdown of law and order and a sharp upsurge in oil prices.

The remarks have alarmed businessmen.

Congress will revoke it

Libanan said any such proclamation was "totally unwarranted" and that the people could rely on Congress to revoke it.

Libanan said the Constitution had stringent requirements for the declaration of a national emergency, including the approval by the majority of members of Congress and its review by the Supreme Court.

Besides, he said, the Constitution "limits any lawful declaration of a state of emergency to at most 60 days."

Pichay stressed that the 1987 Constitution "fatally weakened the powers of the President ... because the Charter's framers ensured there would be no return to the abuses of martial law during the Marcos regime."

He said that under the Constitution, a declaration of a state of emergency may be revoked by Congress, voting jointly, by a vote of at least a majority of all its members in regular or special session.

Military in sidelines

Robles, president of the security risk management consultancy RCR, said Ms Arroyo "is very lucky" that the military was staying on the sidelines.

"The military doesn't want to move, and she looks as if she's prevailing. The military just doesn't want to have anything to do with the alternatives [to] her," Robles said in a phone interview.

Military takeover

Robles said Ms Arroyo's controversial orders, including the calibrated preemptive response to demonstrations and her executive order barring government officials from testifying in congressional inquiries without her consent, on top of reports of government anomalies, were fanning the frustration of some military officers, Robles said.

"These decisions are a cause for celebration for the military rebels, especially those who belong to progressive groups. And the more blunders she commits, the frustration worsens," he said.

"[That's why] the school of thought in the military of a pure military takeover is slowly, but surely growing in strength."

In case of an emergency rule, the progressive groups would bide their time before making their move for a "pure military takeover," according to Robles.

"They're not going to be hassled into a precipitate action simply because Gloria is committing blunders ahead of schedule," he said. "They'd rather plan well, do it properly."

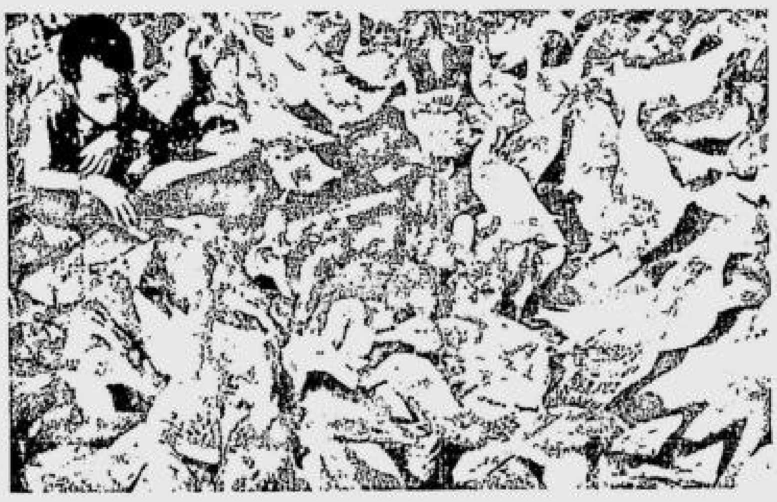
No more elite

And if they succeeded, they would not hand power over to another group of elite as had happened in the February 1986 and January 2001 popular revolts that ousted unpopular leaders.

"Transferring power from a group of elite to another is the same racket," he said.

Robles believed Ms Arroyo would declare an emergency rule if only to preempt the possibility of being ousted and prosecuted on charges that she rigged last year's presidential elections and suffering a fate worse than deposed President Joseph Estrada's.

Robles added: "Nobody in the Palace is pointing out the danger of such an option, which is playing into the hands of the military progressive groups." *With a report from Norman Bordadora*



BIRD FLU WATCH. A boy watches some ducks at a poultry farm in Calumpit. Authorities in the country, which has so far remained free of the bird flu virus, are considering allowing local drug companies to manufacture a generic version of the bird flu vaccine. PDI PHOTO

DOH dares drug firms . . .

From page A1

vaccine to manufacture here," Health Undersecretary Alex Padilla yesterday told reporters in a press briefing.

He was referring to the drug Oseltamivir sold under the brand name Tamiflu and exclusively produced by Roche of Switzerland. Although it is not a vaccine for bird flu, it is largely administered for many influenza strains.

The anti-flu drug might not have a patent in the Philippines.

"We are not really sure if it's patented here," Marilou Buensuceso, vice president of the Philippine Chamber of the Pharmaceutical Industry Inc. (PCPI), told reporters yesterday.

Padilla said the Bureau of Food and Drugs would issue a certificate of product registration authorizing the sale of a locally produced vaccine in the Philippine market. "It's up to (Roche) to file a complaint."

While resolving the complaint, the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) will determine if the flu vaccine has a Philippine patent.

No global patent

Ireneo Galicia, IPO deputy director general, said there was no such thing as a "global patent," meaning Roche would have to apply for individual rights in different countries like the Philippines.

Health Secretary Francisco Duque III earlier complained about the shortage of Oseltamivir in Asian countries which had been infected by the deadly "H5N1" bird flu strain. He blamed Roche's patent which prevents local production of the drug.

The virus has killed more than 60 people and millions of fowls in a number of Asian countries since 2003. Health experts fear that it would soon mutate into a deadlier strain causing human-to-human infection and setting off a pandemic.

The Philippines is considered vulnerable to the virus since birds from China and Mongolia flock to the country between October and January to escape the cold weather.

If Oseltamivir were manufactured in the country despite an existing patent, Buensuceso said she doubted if Roche would file a legal complaint.

Costly suits

Suits like this are costly, she said, so companies usually sue in "major" markets like Japan, the United States and the European Union.

In the event of a pandemic, Galicia said the government could explore the "flexibilities" in the international intellectual property system. These are the limitations to a company's patent rights.

"In times of emergency, when the supply of certain medicines are inadequate, the government can bring in these medicines to the country without the consent of the patent holder," he said, citing cases during the outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome and the anthrax scare after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Galicia said the government could also impose compulsory licensing, allowing local drug companies to manufacture the vaccine.

Another option is parallel importation wherein a drug exclusively distributed in one country could be brought into another country without permission from the patent holder.

All these measures, though, should be lifted once the emergency is over, he said.

Bolar provision

Since a patent holder would have exclusive rights to a product for 20 years, Galicia said local authorities were working on a legislation allowing a so-called "Bolar" provision.

A Bolar provision provides exemption from patent infringement and allows a generic manufacturer to research and develop a product two to three years before the patent term has expired.

Galicia said other companies could introduce their version of the drug the day after the patent expires.

Officials of the World Health Organization said international cooperation is key to preventing a bird flu pandemic in Southeast Asia.

"I believe the momentum that is now building up will give us a chance to change the course of history and head off a pandemic caused by the H5N1 virus," WHO regional director Dr. Shigeru Omi said.

"Of course, I have no illusions about the danger the world is in, because we are dealing with a virus that is unpredictable, firmly entrenched and continuing to spread," he said.

He said some of the world's richest countries have made commitments to help fight the disease and "one of the biggest coalitions in the history of public health is now taking shape."

Omi warned, however, that international assistance will be useless if affected countries do not cooperate, report outbreaks and share specimens from infected people and poultry for analysis by other countries and health agencies. *With a report from AP*

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THE PUSH N' PULL suddenly erupts even as negotiations between the antiriot cops and leaders of the procession-cum-protest including Representatives Satur Ocampo, Riza Hontiveros and Fr. Robert Reyes are going on.

ERIK ARAZAS

Water blast stops rally

From page A1

hosed as the police turned jets of water on them to prevent the marchers from getting close to Malacañang Palace.

Also doused in the confrontation at the corner of C.M. Recto Street and San Sebastian Street were priests and nuns who were carrying the statues of the Virgin Mary.

"Cannonized," observers said wryly.

Unexpected evening bath

Bishops Deogracias Iniguez, 64, and Antonio Tobias, also in his 60s, were marching several rows back but also got wet.

But Bishop Julio Labayen, 80, escaped the water blast.

Too weak to march, Labayen had joined the procession-cum-protest in a van.

But other political critics of Ms Arroyo—including party-list Representatives Satur Ocampo, former Sen. Wigberto Tañada, former Executive Secretary Oscar Orbos, "running priest" Fr. Robert Reyes, and "jueteng" whistle-blower Sandra Cam—also received an early evening bath.

Virgin also sprinkled

The water jets also slightly hit the images of the Virgin Mary, which the marchers had wanted to bring to the churches of San Beda and St. Jude near Malacañang for another round of prayer.

Madrigal claimed she was manhandled. So did Guingona's daughter, who said she was grabbed by the neck by a plainclothes policeman.

At the time of the incident, Ms Arroyo had finished speaking at a festival in Dumaguete City and was heading back to Manila.

Reminiscent of Marcos years

The marchers had earlier assembled at Plaza Miranda before marching on to Recto, planning to go to San Beda Church, about 300 meters away from the gates of Malacañang.

While marching, they sang church hymns, like "Immaculate Mother," and the protesters' battle song against Marcos, "Bayan Ko."

The scene brought echoes of how riot troops during the rule of Ferdinand Marcos dispersed peaceful protests led by nationalist leaders Lorenzo Tañada, Jose W. Diokno and former pre-martial law Manila Times publisher Joaquin "Chino" Roces.

Why?

Instead of placards and flags, many carried rosaries and they chanted none of the anti-Arroyo slogans that had marked the daily protest rallies.

"They had no reason to hose us down," an angry, drenched Guingona told the INQUIRER. His daughter Marie also was not spared.

Authorities could give no immediate explanation why they decided to disperse the procession.

"I'm the ground commander and even if I didn't order it, I take full responsibility," Supt. Bernard Diaz later told Orbos, who had been at the forefront of negotiations for the group to be allowed to go to Mendiola Bridge.

The bridge is now named after the anti-Marcos activist Chino Roces and has been a shrine to protests since the 1970s.

"I will have the incident investigated," Diaz said.

Police said they had no permit to march so close to Ms Arroyo's official residence.

The water bombardment marked the latest police implementation of its so-called policy of calibrated preemptive response (CPR) intended to prevent protesters from getting near Malacañang.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza had previously said that Mendiola Bridge was off limits to protesters.

Police had allowed the rallyists to march to Recto on condition that they took the shortest possible route and refrained from bringing anti-administration placards.

No-rally zone turns Palace into fortress

From page A1

Directing his message to protesters, Atienza said: "Please don't force yourself on Mendiola. This has been the site of confrontational situations that have not been good to the country."

He recalled as an example the "Mendiola Massacre" in 1987, where 17 farmers were killed in one of the bloodiest police dispersal operations in the country.

Atienza tried to justify the Manila government's refusal to allow the bishops' prayer rally on Mendiola: "I know what a procession is, but I hope our bishops would not take it against me. There is nothing wrong in going to church, but why do they have to pass a critical place? When we blend the political and the religious, there will be complications. *(Story on Page A1)*

"In normal times, we could have allowed it. But we have a different situation now."

Schools

Atienza said Mendiola Bridge would be included in the no-rally zone because of the number of schools in the vicinity (San Beda College, College of the Holy Spirit, La Consolacion College, Centro Escolar University and San Sebastian College).

"If students, commuters and workers are caught in traffic for up to three hours because of these rallies, they curse the government. We have to be considerate to those who do not join rallies," the mayor said.

Atienza said City Hall would also look into whether Malacañang Freedom Park, located right in front of the main gate of the Palace, should be moved as part of the establishment of the no-rally zone.

He said only rallies held at Liwasang Bonifacio, Luneta Park, Bonifacio Shrine and Plaza Miranda would be allowed by City Hall.

Atienza said the safety of all demonstrators would be guaranteed as long as they held protest actions in the designated venues and in a peaceful manner.

Dramatic decrease

When asked if the government would still guarantee the demonstrators' safety if they crossed the line, he said: "I think they are responsible enough."

Bunye continued to downplay the opposition's ability to mount major rallies comparable to those launched in previous administrations.

Citing a study made by Malacañang officials, Bunye said the protest rallies had grown substantially thinner and less frequent under the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo compared to the administration of President Joseph Estrada.

"The number of participants in all the rallies have been tracked, and the trend is really downward; the decrease is dramatic," Bunye said.

Legal and militant groups continued to challenge the government's calibrated preemptive response (CPR) policy in the streets, but yesterday took the fight to the Supreme Court.

In a 39-page petition for certiorari, prohibition and mandamus, the petitioners assailed the constitutionality of Batas Pambansa 880, the Marcos law now being used by the Arroyo administration to ban protest rallies without permits and to implement CPR.

'Unconstitutional

"Batas Pambansa 880 is unconstitutional because it requires a permit to rally even absent clear evidence of the danger, of a character both grave and imminent, a serious evil to public safety, public morals, public health, or any legitimate public interest," said the petitioners, who include officers of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, Public Interest Law Center, Karapatan, Gabriela, Kilusang Mayo Uno, Courage and Counsels for the Defense of Liberty.

Named respondents were Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita; Gen. Arturo Lomibao, chief of the Philippine National Police; Manila Mayor Atienza; Gen. Vidal Querol, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, and Gen. Pedro Bulaong, chief of the Western Police District (WPD).

BP 880 was passed into law on Oct. 22, 1985, amid massive demonstrations that eventually resulted in the ouster of strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

'Discriminatory'

"[The law] also serves as a content-based regulation, and therefore discriminatory, as it specifically pertains to rallies criticizing government policies and actions—while unconcerned with those that are not," the petitioners said.

They said groups "sympathetic to the government's cause" had been allowed to hold rallies without disturbance from the police.

The petitioners said the law violated freedom of speech and freedom to assemble and petition the government for redress of grievances.

They cited incidents where they became victims of the law, including the Aug. 23 Cry of Pugadlawin incident in which they supposedly secured a permit from Quezon City Hall but were still blocked by agents of the Central Police District from holding the rally.

On Oct. 6, they said, Bayan and the Gloria Step Down Movement also asked Atienza for a rally permit but the mayor allegedly refused to act on the request.

Right to assembly

"In practice, BP 880 is actually to restrict the right to assembly," the petitioners said.

They said they had never been granted a permit by Atienza, "or many other mayors, for that matter ..."

"BP 880, therefore, merely legalizes the dispersal of rallies, since it was never meant [to be], nor did it function as, a tool to grant permits to rallies," they added.

The petitioners also asked the Supreme Court to order the respondents to investigate and prosecute policemen found to have committed acts of violence against demonstrators.

They asked Bulaong to show a complete and official list of the members of the WPD Civil Disturbance Units or its other units involved in the dispersal of protesters last Oct. 6.

"We will fight [Ms Arroyo's] repressive measures in the streets and in the courts. For too long, the 'no permit, no rally' policy has been abused and used as an instrument to stifle legitimate dissent," the protesters said.

Protesters hound GMA in Dumaguete

DUMAGUETE CITY—EXPECT PROTESTERS not to be far behind wherever President Macapagal-Arroyo goes.

Anti-Arroyo groups yesterday tried to stage protest actions at the provincial capitol grounds here as the President led the opening of a weeklong celebration of the Buglasan religious festival.

Police Chief Inspector Manuel Hidalgo said his group was able to prevent six members of the local Bayan group from getting near the scene before the presidential convoy made its way to the capitol grounds.

The Presidential Security Group also stopped two other protesters from entering the premises and seized leaflets calling for Ms Arroyo to step down, Hidalgo said.

Another group of protesters apparently managed to catch Ms Arroyo's attention as she made her way to the booths. The protesters flashed at her a paper with a message saying, "Oust GMA."

Farmers' group cries harassment

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE KILUSANG MAGBUBUKID ng Pilipinas (KMP) yesterday said the intensity of efforts to harass and intimidate its members had sharply risen, especially after the Arroyo administration implemented its calibrated preemptive response policy.

According to the farmers group, at least one unmarked vehicle is seen parked daily near its office in UP Village, Quezon City, with the occupant seemingly observing those coming and going.

"We have taken down the plate numbers of around five suspicious-looking cars that we see regularly. We have asked our neighbors if they know these cars; they said they don't," said KMP information officer Carl Ala.

The KMP suspects that state agents are behind the efforts to intimidate its members, Ala said.

KMP head Willy Marbella said "harassment calls" to its office—with someone saying, for example, "Die, you communists!"—had multiplied.

He said it also appeared that their own calls were being monitored.

Death of Dapdap trees puzzles experts

From page A1

used for landscape and ornamental purposes. Dapdap trees are said to have medicinal properties whose bark and leaves could treat fever, toothache, cough and abscesses.

Quick death

"Infestation has stopped simply because there are no more Dapdap trees. About 2 percent are left in the entire Metro Manila," DENR-NCR Urban Forestry chief Carlos Gubat Jr. said.

"The trees died quickly so we surmise the saliva of the wasps is toxic. They caused cysts in the trees' stems," he said.

The government's Ecosystems Research and Development Bureau sent samples of the dead Dapdap trees to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington last month for further study on the nature of the wasps, their poison and control measures for such species.

Similar EGW infestation occurred in southern Taiwan in 2003, the first case of wasp invasion of erythrina trees. It also happened in Singapore, Mauritius and Reunion last year and then again in various parts of Hawaii from April to August this year, DENR data showed.

Unknown origin

"We don't know how the wasp got here. It could be through commodities transported in planes or ships ... We really don't know how it got around, and it could be nationwide," Gubat said.

The infestation of the Dapdap trees in the Philippines were observed as early as summer but experts were not alarmed because every year, the trees normally shed their leaves at this time.

"We thought the Dapdap trees would flower that's why they defoliated, but when summer passed and there were no flowers, we knew something was wrong," Gubat said.

Metro Manila's Dapdap trees had wrinkled leaves and swollen petioles and buds. Soon, the trees were "totally defoliated, had decayed branches, debarked trunks and ultimately died," a DENR report said.

The initial study showed that the wasps, which are only 1 to 1.5 mm in size or about the size of a grain of sand, insert their eggs into young leaves and stem tissues. One female wasp carries more than 300 eggs.

Wasp larvae develop from the eggs, causing stems and leaves to swell. As infestation progresses, the leaves wrinkle and the stems become deformed. New adult wasps later emerge through the holes they cut in the leaves and stems.

Helpless

The DENR confirmed the infestation only in August, but was helpless against the wasp invasion.

"We could not use chemical control because it might be bad for the other tree species. And we could not use biological measures because we don't know enough about the EGW to know what species could neutralize it," Gubat said.

The DENR-NCR called for a meeting of community environment officers of all local governments in Metro Manila on Sept. 22.

Local governments have pledged to cut the dead Dapdap trees to prevent possible damage to property.

Acacia trees, too

The DENR is keeping a close eye on the acacia or rain trees, which have red flowers and are exhibiting similar symptoms of EGW infestation.

Gubat said rain trees in Parañaque and on C-5 Road were also defoliating, although the initial study showed this could also be due to the stress of being too close to each other.

'Noli Me Tangere's' sequel launched today

AFTER 118 YEARS, DR. JOSE Rizal's "Noli Me Tangere" has a sequel, "Noli Me Tangere 2" to be launched on Saturday, Oct. 15, at the Carmelite Convent of St. Therese, 4 Gilmore Ave., Quezon City, between 2 and 5 p.m.

The author, Roger Olivares, says "This site is chosen because this is where the idea for a Noli 2 was inspired during a talk on my book, Teresa of Avila. Oct. 15 is her feast day."

"Is the Filipino worth dying for? Read this book!" says Sen. Jovito Salonga. While others think it is presumptuous, Salonga thinks, "It is thought-provoking, written with remarkable skill, it is a worthy sequel to Rizal's Noli."

In Noli 2, Olivares takes the main characters of Jose Rizal, namely, Crisostomo Ibarra, Maria Clara, Elias and Sisa, from the Spanish-dominated 19th century to present-day Philippines. Like Rizal's Noli, it is a searing love story with a clash of characters, individual soul searching—in the backdrop of the current social, political and economic landscape.

Dr. Josefina Constantino, formerly of the University of the Philippines, says "It is a truly powerful book, grippingly realistic." It is a microcosm of the entire Philippine society, where every reader will see himself or herself.

Sen. Joker Arroyo encourages all Filipinos to read it, "It is ingenious—a must and easy read for all Filipinos."

Fr. James Reuter writes, "Like Jose Rizal, Olivares is trying to transform his own nation, to bring it back to what it really should be—one of the loveliest and happiest lands in all this world."

Olivares' historical novels, "Teresa of Avila," and "How Granada Was Won," are on sale in Spain. Another novel, "Odyssey in Crete," is awaiting publication. Olivares wrote the first travel guide book in the Philippines, 34 years ago, "Roger's Do It Yourself Tours." He is a graduate of the Ateneo de Manila University and was a Fulbright scholar at the University of Illinois. Website is www.noli2.com.

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Bus scheme takes off (again) Monday

By Tarra V. Quismundo

AFTER MORE THAN TWO YEARS and several postponements and suspensions, the Organized Bus Route (OBR) scheme of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) will finally be implemented on Monday.

However, only 56 percent—or 1,700 of 3,000—of public buses with franchises to ply Edsa have acquired OBR tags, which are essential to their participation in the controlled dispatching system.

The scheme aims to reduce traffic along Edsa by controlling the number of buses on the road based on the number of passengers available.

MMDA General Manager Robert Nacianceno said yesterday that with the implementation of the scheme on Monday, buses with no OBR tags would be apprehended even if they had the proper franchise.

"Our traffic enforcers will be on the lookout for untagged buses, and those caught will be impounded," Nacianceno said.

OBR tags

OBR tags, which are tamperproof and nontransferable, will allow buses to get queue cards that will determine their place in line when they are dispatched to their respective routes.

Unlike the current free-for-all system, buses under the OBR system will be dispatched from various terminals depending on the number of commuters on loading and unloading points along Edsa.

The agency decided to enforce the scheme after observing that many buses run half full.

With only 56 percent of the total registered buses having acquired OBR tags, the MMDA expects less traffic on Edsa on Monday.

The 1,300 registered buses without OBR tags will not be allowed to ply their routes.

"We are wondering why they did not get their tags, because we gave them ample time to get the tags ," he said.

He surmised that some of the buses were probably under repair or their operators thought that they could skirt the system.

He reiterated that untagged buses caught on the road would be impounded and the agency would demand a reasonable explanation why the unit was not tagged for the OBR.

Untagged buses

Nacianceno said the agency would list down LTFRB-registered buses that failed to show up for tagging.

"It would be totally unfair for others who complied with the timetable if we would just give them (untagged buses) tags that easily. We will first verify why they did not get their tags," said Nacianceno.

MMDA Metropolitan Road Rules Enforcement System head Mon Santiago said they would give the operators of untagged buses today and tomorrow to get their tags, but only if they had a good reason for missing the month-long tagging in terminals.

Santiago said select buses would undergo dispatch simulation over the weekend to ensure a smooth run of the scheme on Monday.

He added that buses without the OBR tags starting Monday would be immediately suspected of operating illegally.

The OBR will be in effect in at least 25 northbound and southbound routes along Edsa.

The agency has established OBR terminals at route endpoints in Alabang, Baclaran, FTI, Navotas and Fairview, and seven more control points near end destinations where queue cards for dispatch would be issued.

The idea for a controlled dispatch system came up in the middle of 2003 and was supposed to be implemented in October that year.

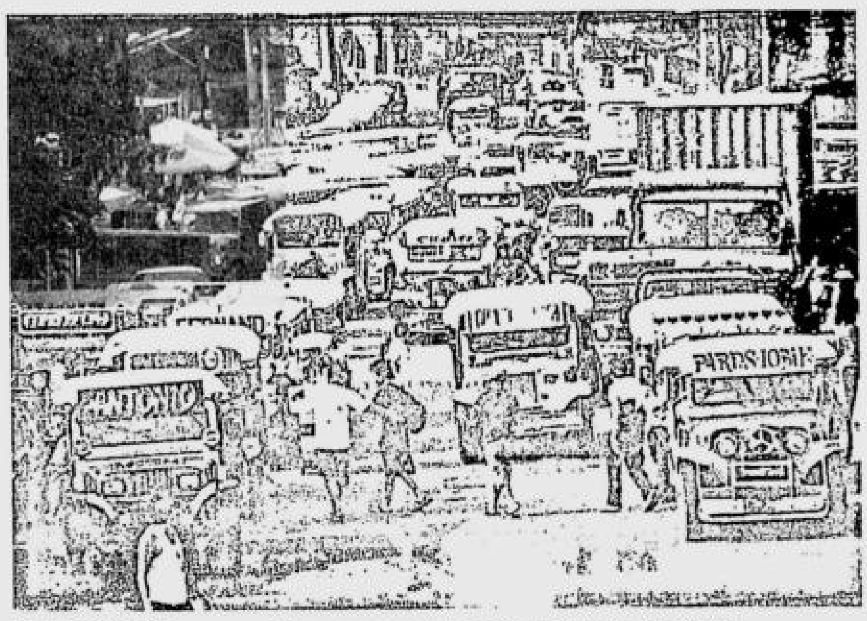
After several dry runs, the OBR system was implemented on Dec. 9, 2003, but it was marred by confusion among drivers.

Before the May 2004 elections, President Macapagal-Arroyo suspended the scheme.

It was revived in September 2004 but was again put on hold.

'Jeep, bus fare hike depends on GMA'

By Clarissa S. Batino


TIT FOR TAT. Jeepney drivers vow not to seek a new fare hike if the government gives them non-fare concessions.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT GROUPS HAVE vowed not to seek an increase in fares this year, that is, if President Macapagal-Arroyo sticks to her promise to address their non-fuel concerns.

"If the non-fuel issues are addressed, then transport groups won't file for a new fare hike petition this year and they would try to hold off any increase as long as they can," said Vigor Mendoza, lawyer and spokesperson for the transport groups.

Jeepneys and buses were planning to ask for a P1.50 and P2 increase in minimum fare less than four months after they implemented a P2 hike last June 21. But government officials intervened and arranged a meeting between transport leaders and the President last Oct. 6.

Major jeepney and bus groups are waiting for a justice department order that would direct the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to comply with a Makati court injunction ordering the body to halt the implementation of the organized bus route scheme, the no-contact apprehension and the Metropolitan Traffic Ticket System.

During the Oct. 6 meeting, the President asked Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez to issue an opinion on the dispute with the MMDA.

"The President also called MMDA head Bayani Fernando and asked him about the status of the injunction. He said if the justice department would issue an opinion, then he would respect it," said Mendoza. The Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) also promised to look into reforms sought by jeepneys and buses.

Mendoza said jeepneys were threatened by the LTFRB's "jeepney rationalization" program. He said a pending resolution of a transportation department order on 15-year-old buses would also be addressed.

A meeting between transport groups and energy officials is being arranged. "We just want to know from the DOE where the price of fuel is really headed and what alternatives we can explore to soften the impact on the transport sector," Mendoza added.

The lawyer said the transport sector was aware of the increased burden that a fare hike would have on consumers, especially since prices of goods and services have gone up.

Mendoza said public drivers were also buckling under the pressure of increased costs.

Cases of former NBI agent elevated to court

By Tarra V. Quismundo

KIDNAPPING AND ROBBERY charges against a former agent of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) has been elevated to court by the Department of Justice yesterday.

Martin Soriano, who was dismissed from the NBI in April 1999, has been charged with kidnapping and robbery for allegedly abducting Caroline Guillen in Makati City on Jan. 28. His driver, Danny Rendon and security aide Ramiro Ganzon were charged with him.

The information said Soriano, Rendon, and Ganzon are currently detained at the Custodial Center of the Philippine National Police Headquarters at Camp Crame.

Guillen, a resident of Quezon City, has told investigators that Soriano's group took her captive inside Citadel Inn on P. Burgos Street in Makati after "arresting" her for fabricated drug charges.

Soriano allegedly demanded P2 million in exchange for her release, but settled for an Isuzu Crosswind XUV and $1,600 from James Marty Lim, Guillen's friend.

No bail was recommended for the kidnapping charge, which was elevated yesterday to the court after the justice department found probable cause against Soriano and his men.

A separate robbery charge, for which bail was set at P100,000, was also elevated to the court. Guillen is alleging that when Soriano's group adbucted her, they also took a handbag which contained her mobile phone.

The criminal information, filed yesterday afternoon before the Makati Regional Trial Court, was signed by prosecution lawyer Irwin Maraya.

The three men, with 11 others, were also charged with four more robbery-hold-up charges for allegedly preying on four other victims the same day Guillen was abducted. For each case, bail was set at P100,000 for each of the accused.

Charged were Insp. Casan Ali, PO2 Alexander delos Reyes, SPO2 Elmer Manalang, SPO2 Fernando Cantillas, PO1 Ronald Rivera, PO3 Rodolfo Enderina, PO2 Ernie Reyes Jr., PO2 Ronilo Marquez, PO2 Ramil de Guzman, Jessica Avelino and Mark Martinez. They are all at large.

The charges arose from separate operations allegedly involving Soriano and his group on Jan. 28.

Among the private complainants was Allan Joseph Sycip, whom Soriano's group allegedly apprehended for false drug charges.

Soriano and his gang allegedly took Sycip's Honda Civic worth P420,000.

Coast Guard guessing game

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

A GUESSING GAME IS TAKING place at the Coast Guard headquarters as to the identity of the Coast Guard officer who allegedly sexually harassed a female supplier who came to his office.

This column did not identify the concerned officer, and that set off the finger-pointing game.

Is it this officer, who's been on sea duty for a long time, or that officer, who would go after a post with a skirt?

The scuttlebutt goes on and on.

My mole in the Coast Guard said the officer being referred to has been saying that this column should come out with the officer's identity.

So far, the hint this corner gave as to the identity of the lothario is his being a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy (PMA).

There are scores of PMA graduates in the Coast Guard.

The ungentlemanly act the concerned officer has done after the incident, according to my spy, was to spread the rumor that the female supplier, just like the others, was an "easy girl" who dated many Coast Guard officers.

Goodness gracious! So, that's how lowly you regard women suppliers at the Coast Guard?

* * *

During the time of Vice Adm. Reuben Lista, who's now retired, women who transacted business with the Coast Guard were treated with respect.

I know Ben Lista very well.

He's got an eye for beautiful women, but he's a complete gentleman, although he's not a PMAyer.

Lista, a product of the Philippine Merchant Marine Academy (PMMA), ordered his subordinates to treat every female supplier with utmost respect.

I wonder if Lista's replacement, Vice Adm. Art Gosingan, gave the same order to his subordinates?

* * *

Sexual harassment in the workplace is very common in government offices.

This, despite the fact that a law has been passed penalizing superiors who use their power over their female subordinates.

Uniformed agencies like the Philippine National Police, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and the Philippine Coast Guard, which is a civilian office under the Department of Transportation and Communications, should lead the way in eliminating sexual harassment in the workplace.

If that Coast Guard officer could do it to a supplier, who's not a staff member, there's a big possibility he does it to female Coast Guard subordinates.

* * *

An insider at the government-run East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City says a department head in the hospital has been charging charity patients.

Dr. Roland L. Cortez, EAMC chief, who reportedly knew about the illegal practice, has not done anything about it, my source said.

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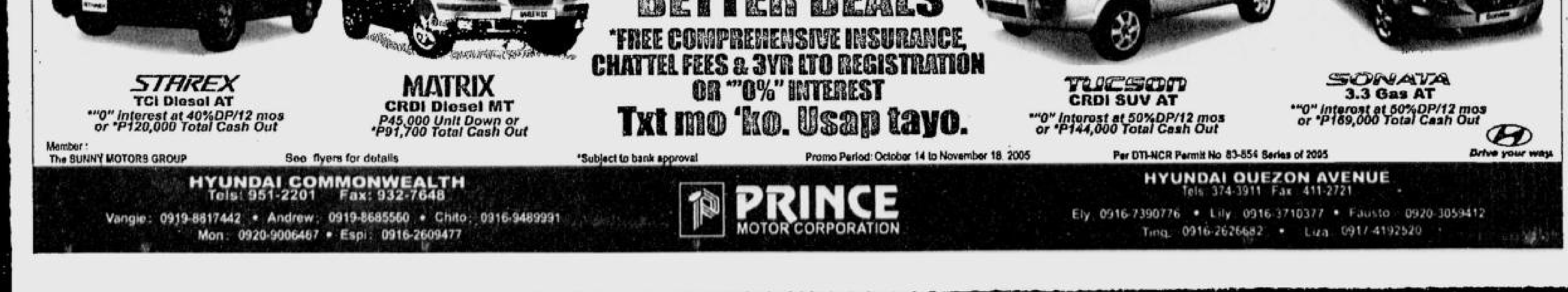
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METROBRIEFS

Lost in transmission?

THE MEMORANDUM sent by the chief of anti-illegal drugs to the barangay chair of Bangkulasi, Navotas read that approximately five kilos of marijuana leaves were turned over to local police for safekeeping. The leaves were reportedly found floating in Manila Bay by fishermen. But a report filed at the Northern Police District said only one kilo was recorded at the Station Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Unit for inventory purposes. The town's chief of police Supt. Genesis Tolejano, however, said the marijuana leaves were all accounted for, adding that he was surprised why only a kilo was reported in the district's file. Tolejano said the marijuana leaves could be part of a shipment thrown into the bay during an operation conducted by the Coast Guard the other day.

Nancy C. Carvajal

Page One (Book 2) launch today

A SEMINAR for Mass Communication teachers and students co-hosted by Anvil Publishing Inc., the Philippine Daily Inquirer and Powerbooks will be held today from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at Powerbooks, Greenbelt 4, Makati City. The seminar marks the release of Page One: Book Two, published by the INQUIRER. The much-awaited sequel to the groundbreaking Page One: Book One, this new volume presents the most memorable front-page images of the INQUIRER from 1996 to 2001. INQUIRER publisher Isagani M. Yambot and associate editor Abel S. Ulanday will speak on "Media Values amidst a Political and Moral Crisis," and "The Science of Producing a Daily Newspaper," respectively. Moderator for the discussion is INQUIRER books consultant Ruel S. De Vera.

New look for Makati cops

COP MAKEOVER
BEFORE
AFTER

MAKATI CITY policemen will have a date with the barber today at no cost. "This is meant to boost the moral of our men. When you are enforcing the law, you also have to look presentable, or else the people will not respect and obey you," said Supt. Efren Ysulat, Makati Police District officer in charge. Hairstylists from the Kumakalinga sa Mamamayan Para sa Reporma Inc. (Kumpare), a nongovernment organization have been tapped for the job from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Makati City Hall quadrangle.

Tarra V. Quismundo

UP engineers' alumni homecoming

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Alumni Engineers will hold its annual homecoming and reunion on Nov. 12 at the UP College of Engineering in Diliman, Quezon City. The new Computer Science building will be inaugurated in time for the homecoming. Graduates of Class 1955 (Golden Jubilarians) and Class 1965 (Ruby Jubilarians) will also receive their commemorative awards from the Homecoming Committee during the reunion. Tickets to the affair are priced at P500 each. For more details, contact the UPAE Secretariat at telephone numbers 436-1386 or 922-4714.

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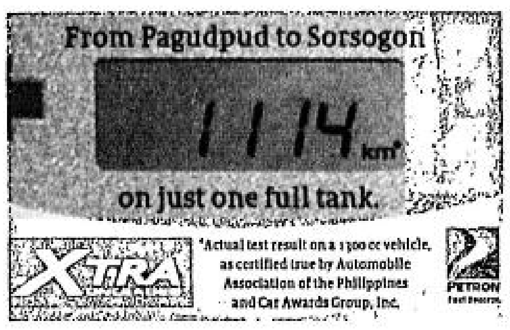
Compiled by L. Mangulat

BASEBALL: MLB ALCS, Game Three; 8 a.m. (r – 2 p.m. and 9 p.m.); ESPN – The road to the World Series continues.
BASKETBALL: NBA Pre-Season – Grizzlies vs Heat; 8:30 a.m. (r-6:30 p.m.); Solar Sports – Memphis takes on Miami in this tune-up match.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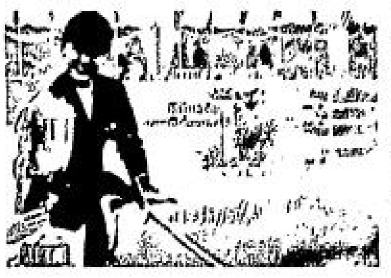


- Danila picks up 4th gold; 2 rookies shine /A23
- Astros trample Cards, level NL series /A24
- Wie debuts with 70 /A24
- RP-Malaysia duel looms /A28

ALASKA'S Tee McClary loses possession under pressure from Purefoods' Kerby Raymundo (right) during the game last night. RYAN LIM

Giants rally from 29 down, nose out Aces

By June Navarro

ALL PUREFOODS CHUNKEE WANTED WAS TO Purefoods Chunkee wanted was to chop down a huge margin and walk away from the game with a respectable finish.

The Giants, however, surpassed themselves and rallied from 29 points down to turn back the Alaska Aces, 86-84, in overtime last night in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Marquin Chandler keyed a couple of big plays in the end while Marc Pingris and Roger Yap also delivered in the clutch as the Giants pulled off one of the most stunning upsets in league history.

The Giants eclipsed a feat accomplished by Hapee-RP Team in the 2002 Governors Cup eliminations when the Nationals came back from a 28-point deficit to repulse the Coca-Cola Tigers.

"Prior to this one, we have not beaten Alaska for seven straight games," said Purefoods Chunkee coach Ryan Gregorio, whose Giants bounced back from a loss against the Air21 Express to improve to 2-1. The Aces fell to 1-2.

"But it's doubly sweeter thinking that we did it from 29 points down."

From a 27-56 deficit, the Giants worked their way up behind James Yap, Kerby Raymundo, Roger Yap and Chandler.

The absence of Alaska's Tee McClary in the final period helped fuel the rally. McClary aggravated a strained ankle and was taken out by coach Tim Cone with still nine minutes remaining in the fourth.

Yap's three-pointer with 17 seconds left tied the game at 80. A Noy Castillo basket on an assist by Chandler sent the match into overtime.

Chandler fired 31 points, hauled down 16 rebounds and issued all his seven assists in the second half, including a pass on a streaking Pingris in the extra period.

Meanwhile, Mick Pennisi got the green light to play from the PBA yesterday after submitting original copies of the documents required by the league on foreign-born players.

"I've worked so hard for this," said Pennisi, who was banned by the league in October 2004 following a Department of Justice ruling ordering his deportation for allegedly faking his citizenship papers.

Pennisi came up with the documents supporting his claim that his mother hailed from Nueva Ecija.

GAME TODAY
(*Mindanao Civic Center Gym, Tubod, Lanao Del Norte*)
4:30 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Coca-Cola

GAMES TOMORROW
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:10 p.m.—San Miguel Beer vs Purefoods
6:40 p.m.—Air21 vs Red Bull Barako

The scores:

First Game

PUREFOODS 86—Chandler 31, Yap 15, Raymundo 12, Yap 9, Salvador 7, Pingris 5, Artadi 2, Billones 2, Castillo 2, Yee 1, Laure 0.

ALASKA 84—Mcclary 27. Alido 12, Cariaso 11, Alvarez 10, Hugnatan 9, Cablay 7, Wilson 4, Dela Cruz 4, Thoss 0.

Quarters: 11-26, 25-51, 52-66, 82-all (reg.), 86-84

La Salle can't get hold of Benitez

By Jasmine W. Payo

MARK Benitez has been identified on numerous reports as the "ineligible" Archer.

THE INQUIRY INTO THE DE LA SALLE University controversy could not fully prosper. Reason: school authorities could not get hold of the player.

His whereabouts have remained unknown, a La Salle announcement said yesterday.

"We really hope he shows up," said executive vice president Dr. Carmelita Quebengco, who formed a four-man committee to investigate the player who submitted false high school records.

Last Tuesday, La Salle admitted that one of its basketball players—who has been identified on numerous reports as third-year center Mark Benitez—submitted documents that "turned out to be spurious," and was therefore "neither eligible for admission to DLSU nor for participation as a member of DLSU's basketball team."

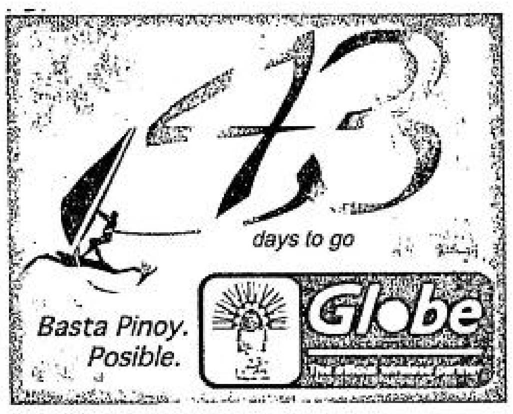
"The focus of the investigation will have to be the player concerned," said Quebengco. "We have to find out where the document came from, who secured it, who gave it to the player."

Quebengco said she had an "informal talk" with the questioned player right after Game 2 of La Salle's title series with Far Eastern University last week.

"It was an informal conversation and I just asked him for confirmation," recalled Quebengco. "His responses were accurate. He really remembered when he took the test, when it was released. When I told him that the documents were spurious, he said he didn't know.

"He was very sur-

LA SALLE/ A22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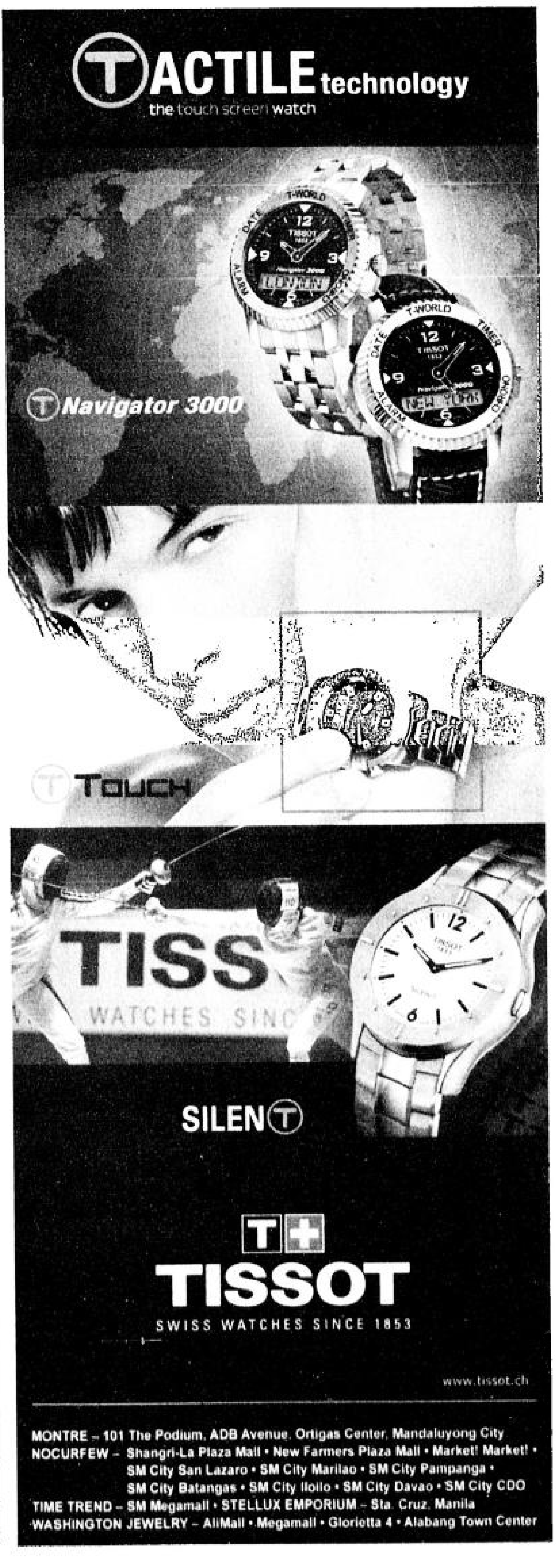
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DISPERSED ARCHERS

Yeo, 8 others find new teams

KING ARCHER JOSEPH YEO AND EIGHT OTHER LA SALLE CAGERS EASILY FOUND NEW teams during the dispersal draft last Thursday for the 2006 PBL Heroes Cup scheduled to start on Oct. 29.

YEO: To Harbour

Yeo, undeniably one of the finest collegiate players today, and teammates JV Casio and PJ Walsham were drafted by Harbour Centre, which will be handled this time by University of the East coach Dindo Pumaren.

Welcoat Paints also picked up three Archers—center Jun-Jun Cabatu, TY Tang and Pocholo Villanueva. Mark Benitez and Ryan Araña went to comebacking Hapee Toothpaste while Rico Maierhofer was picked by Bacchus Energy Drink.

Benitez has been identified as the ineligible player who had played for La Salle in the last three seasons. In the wake of La Salle's shocking discovery, the school had offered to forfeit its 2004 UAAP crown and this may have also led to its decision to take a leave of absence from the PBL where it has been competing as ICSTI-La Salle.

Far Eastern Insurance, which earned the right to pick first as the newest addition to the PBL family, took San Beda's prolific forward Yousif Aljamal.

The Insurers, which will be handled by the youthful Bong dela Cruz, also drafted Nani Epondulan while Hapee

added Jerome Paterno of San Beda to its lineup.

Magnolia Dairy Ice Cream tapped San Beda's Jeff Bombeo and Alex Angeles, and Wynsjohn Te.

Franklin Nailon, Nat Cruz and Kenneth Coyukang—all from Bacchus—went to Granny Goose Tortillos, Montaña Pawnshop and Toyota Otis-Letran, respectively.

La Salle can't . . .

From page A21

prised. He was calm but he looked very sad. I told him not to worry. And that if he has a clear conscience, there shouldn't be any problem."

Quebengco also denied reports that there are actually two ineligible players in the La Salle roster. "As far as we're concerned, there's only one," she noted. "Our records show there's only one player who has a spurious document."

Quebengco said the four-man committee—composed of one legal counsel and one representative each from the UAAP board, the University Registrar and the Office of Sports Development—has invited Benitez twice to shed light on the case.

"He's already considered ineligible (as a student), so legally, we have no right to compel him to come," she said.

Quebengco also said that other officials will be called for questioning. "Other people who will likely be called include those who received the documents from the admissions office and . . . some of the team officials," she said.

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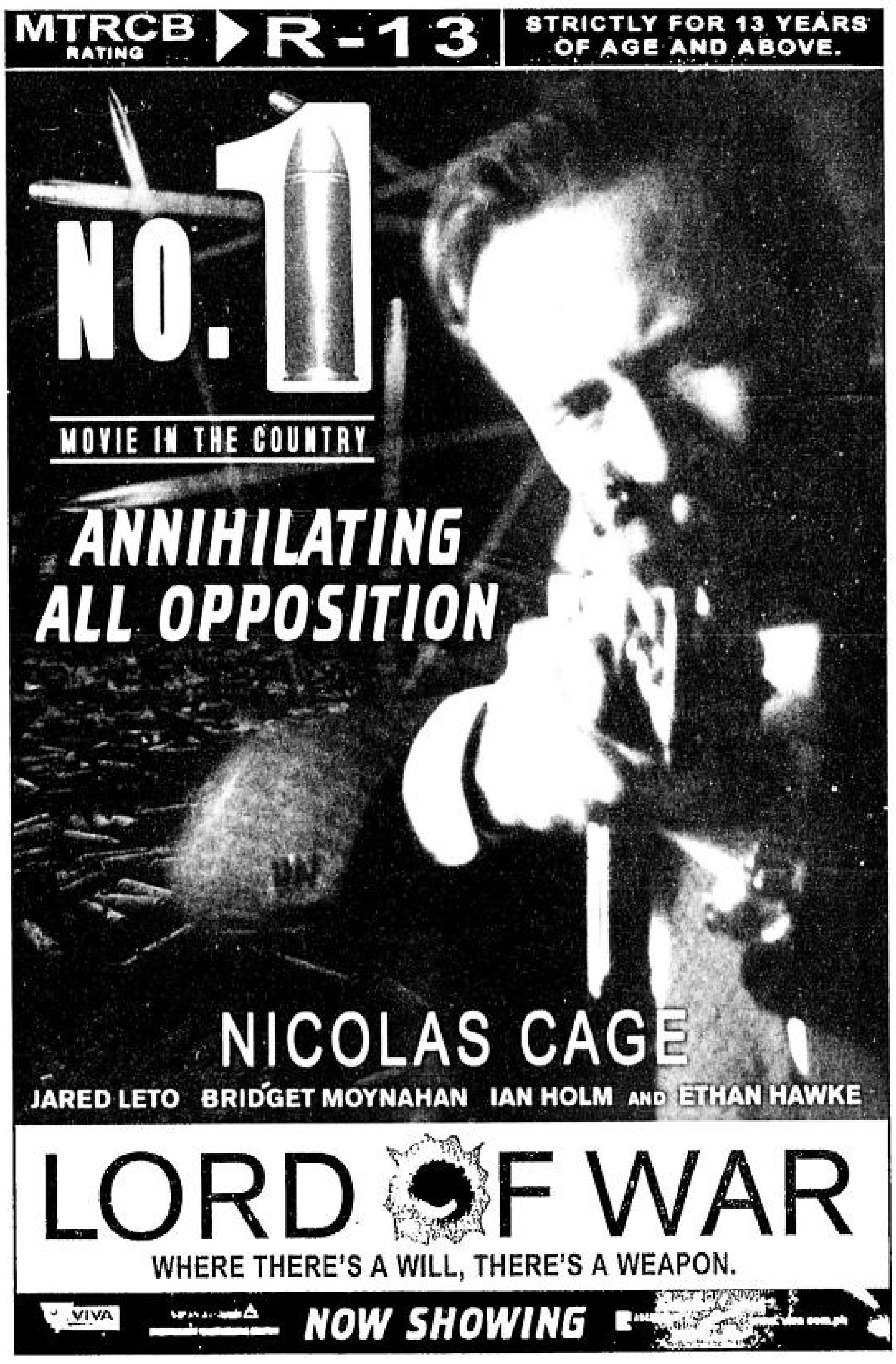
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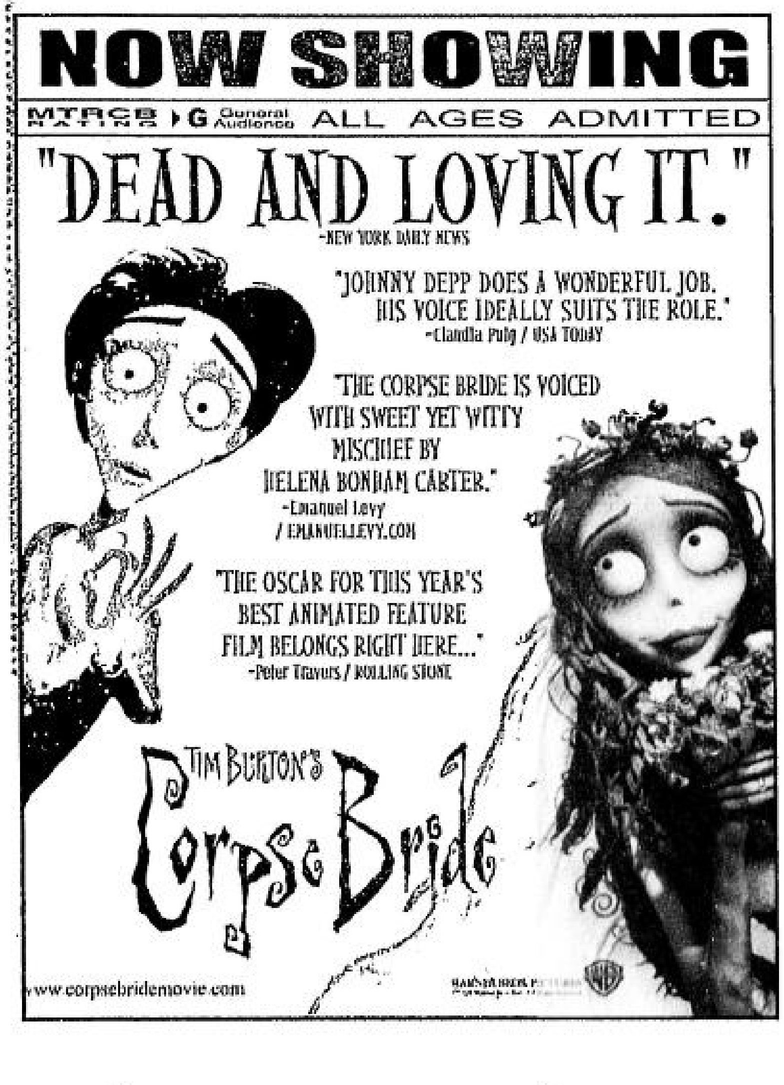
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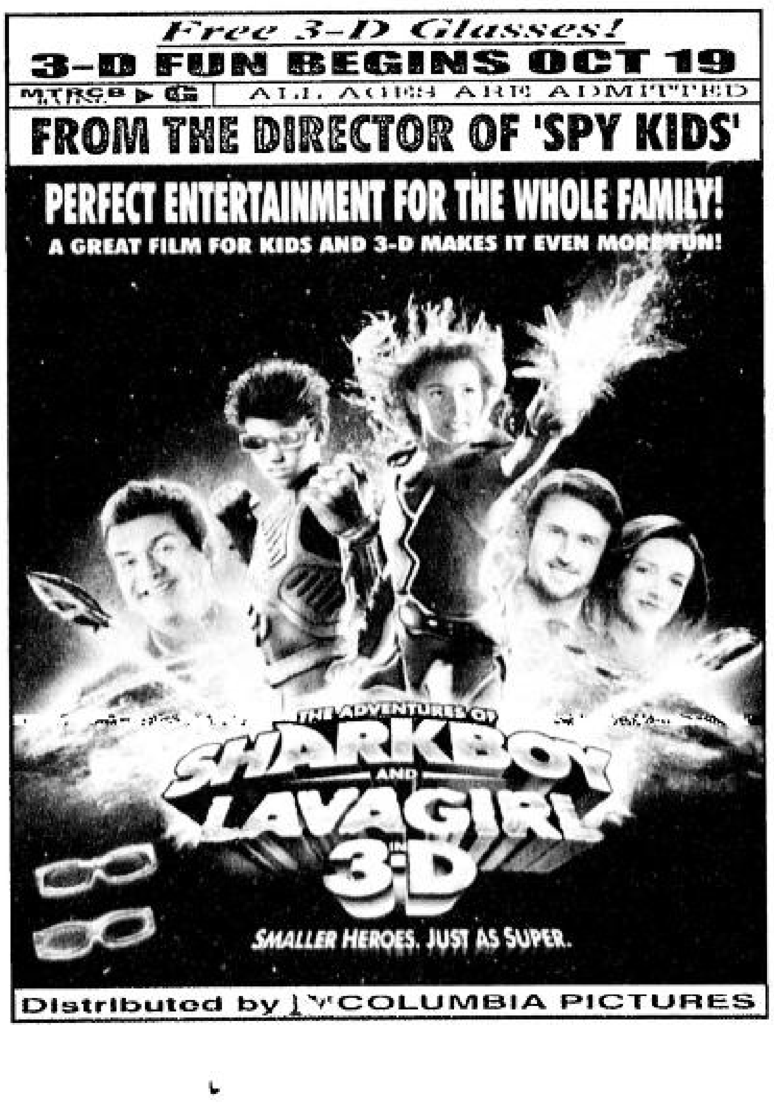
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Danila picks up 4th gold; 2 rookies shine

UPSET: Marichi Gandionco AUGUST DELA CRUZ

By Marc Anthony Reyes

LIZZA DANILA SNARED HER FOURTH GOLD MEDAL, BUT IT WAS NEWCOMers Denjylie Cordero and Bonus Bordado who made the biggest splash yesterday in Day 4 of the Bank of Commerce national open swimming tryouts.

Danila continued to dominate the Southeast Asian Games qualifying event by winning the women's 200-meter freestyle at the expense of youngster Marichi Gandionco. She earlier won the 100m and 200 backstroke and the 100m free.

Her victory, though, was overshadowed by the 13-year-old Cordero who humbled her veteran rivals in the women's 200m breaststroke.

The high school freshman from the Light of Life Christian School in Pasig City clocked 2 minutes, 42.94 seconds. Her closest rival could only time 2:45.89.

Cordero's feat, however, didn't guarantee her an automatic slot in the SEAG because her time was way off the qualifying standard.

The country's main breaststroke artist, the United States-based Jaclyn Pangilinan, is norming 2:32 in the same event.

Bordado, 17, edged Athens Olympian Timmy Chua in the men's 200m breast, finishing in 2:25.12, as against the veteran's 2:26.03 clocking.

Ronald Guiriba also boosted his SEAG hopes with a gold medal performance in the men's 50m free, beating Palarong Pambansa champions Benjie Uy and Kendrick Uy.

Later in the day, Ryan Arabejo, 17, picked up his third gold medal after ruling the 1,500m free in 16:33. He also bagged the gold in the men's 400m free and the men's 400m individual medley.

RP golfers fail to gain ground vs Spirits foes

DUMANDAN

THE PHILIPPINES barely gained ground on the opposition with a combined 4-under-par 140 for joint 17th Thursday, as the women's squad again failed to keep up with the men's team halfway through the 2005 Spirit International Amateur golf championships in Houston.

Marvin Dumandan came through with an eagle-birdie windup in the backside of the Whispering Pines Golf course to power his partnership with Gene Bondoc to a solid 6-under-par 66 under the bestball format.

But Lora Roberto and Anya Tanpinco limped home with a second straight 2-over 74, giving the Philippines a 36-hole aggregate of 286, in a tie with Finland.

The Filipinos, whose stint is supported by golf patron Enrique Razon through the National Golf Association, stood 18 strokes off the lead going into the final two rounds of this biennial event, which pools the combined output of the men's and ladies squads for the team's overall score.

England fired a 135 for a 268 to seize a 2-stroke lead over South Africa (139-270).

Defending champion United States was third at 271 after shooting the day's best score of 134.

In men's team play, the Philippines, headed by team captain and NGAP vice president Danny Pizarro, remained in joint 14th with a 138, 8 strokes behind Canada (66-130), which leads Germany and the US by three shots.

With a 148 total, the RP ladies, skippered by NGAP treasurer Alice Andrada, stood in 19th place among 24 teams, 15 strokes behind England (68) and Sweden (67) at 133.

Fiba decision on SEAG tilt after Oct. 24

By Musong R. Castillo

THE FATE OF BASKETBALL IN THE COMing 23rd Southeast Asian Games will be known only after Oct. 24.

This was the information relayed to the Philippine Olympic Committee by the international basketball federation (Fiba) yesterday, according to a source close to POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco.

Fiba secretary general Patrick Baumann is reportedly away in Geneva, Switzerland, and will be back only on the 24th.

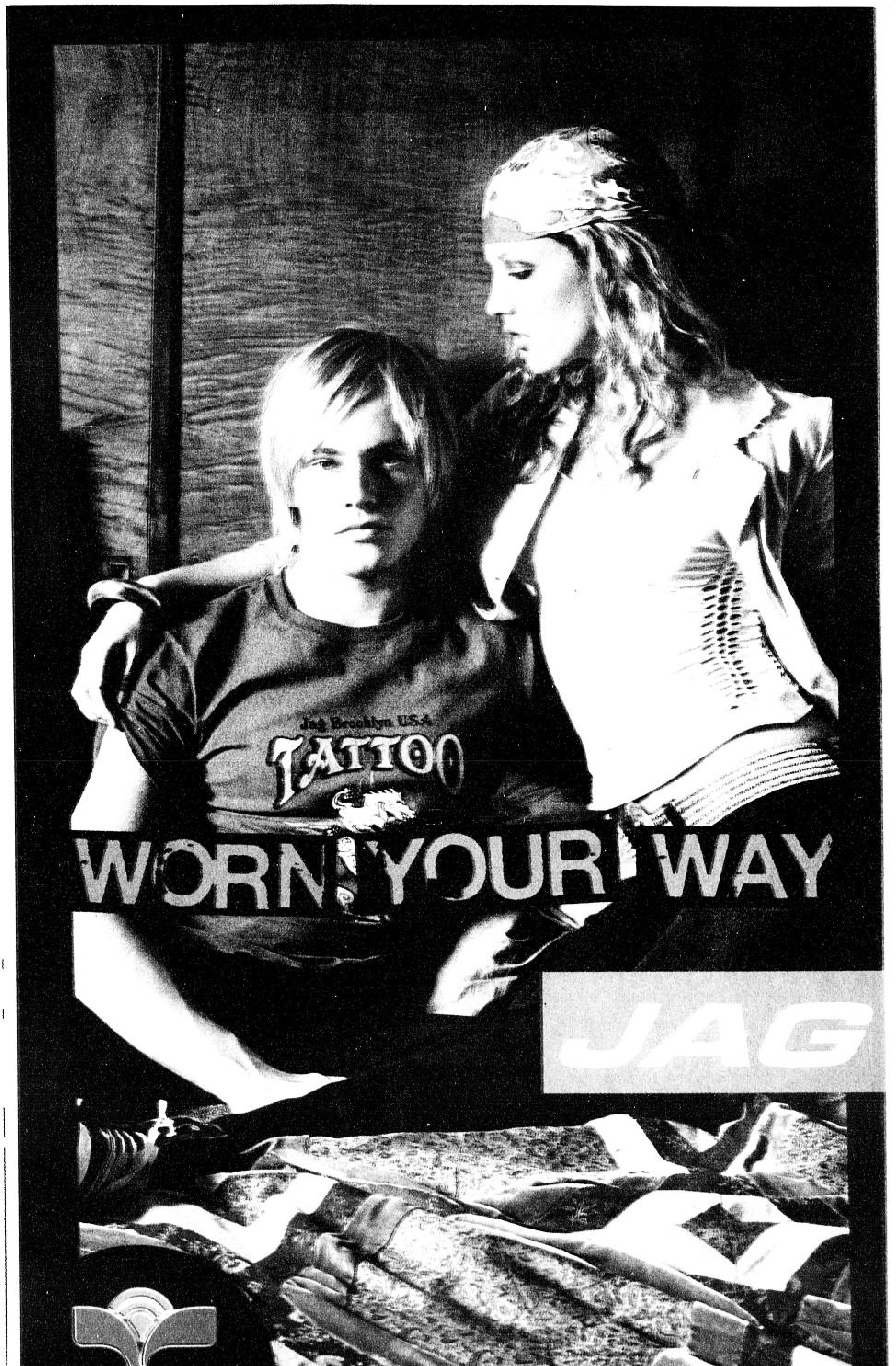
Cojuangco had written Baumann last week seeking a categorical reply to a question on whether or not cage competition in the SEAG is still possible.

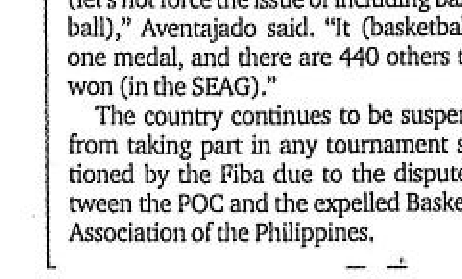
The biennial meet is just 42 days away from its Nov. 27 kickoff.

Meanwhile, Robert Aventajado, chair of the POC who, with Cojuangco, met Baumann in Geneva late last month, told the INQUIRER that the local Olympic body is inclined to scrap SEAG basketball.

"We have nothing to prove in the SEAG, *huwag na natin ipilit isama ang* basketball (let's not force the issue of including basketball)," Aventajado said. "It (basketball) is one medal, and there are 440 others to be won (in the SEAG)."

The country continues to be suspended from taking part in any tournament sanctioned by the Fiba due to the dispute between the POC and the expelled Basketball Association of the Philippines.





InqBox

Question of the Week

Your message to the 4 Filipino boxing champs: Brian Viloria, Rey " Boom Boom " Bautista, Bobby Pacquiao and Manny Pacquiao?

Senders of d best 20 texts as publishd in Tuesday's **InqBox** *wiL each receiv an *Inquirer Shirt!* Ü

TEXT inquirer box name/age/city/message.
Text your answer to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
(Maximum of 160 characters)

*Metro Manila winners can call Jane at 8978808 local 335. Provincial winners can text: inquirer ad name/age/city/mailing address to 2207 or 283 as their prizes will be mailed to them

Inquirer
menu

McLaren team to beat in Chinese GP

SHANGHAI—TEST DRIVER PEDRO De la Rosa proved McLaren is the team to beat at the Chinese Grand Prix this weekend, finishing fastest in the second practice session here Friday.

With teammates Kimi Raikkonen and Juan Pablo Montoya third and fifth fastest respectively, the writing is on the wall for Renault, which is in a nail-biting battle with McLaren for the constructors' championship.

Going into the last race of the season, Renault has 176 points to McLaren's 174. If they end tied, McLaren will win, owing to its more first-place finishes. *AFP*

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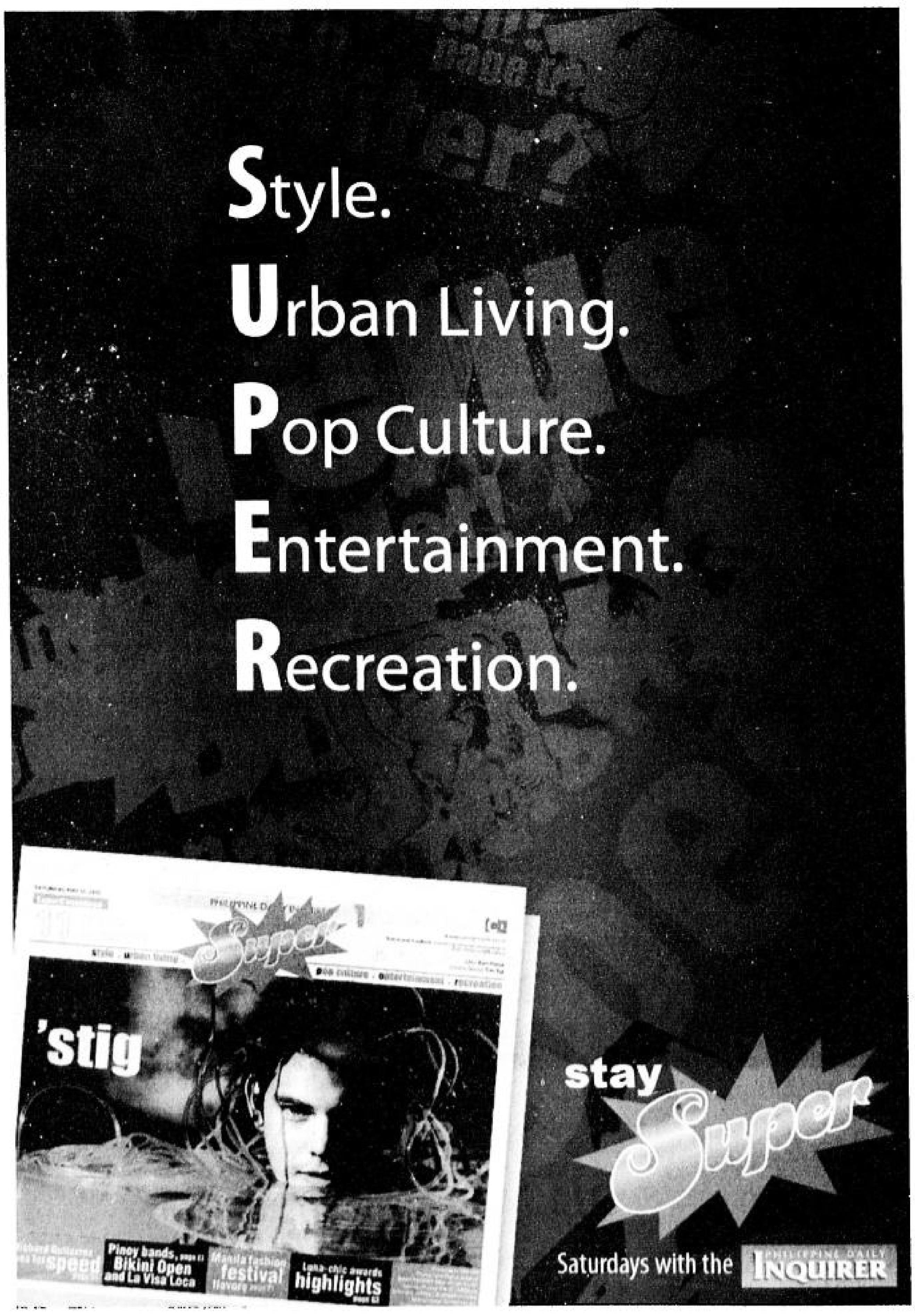
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Saturdays with the INQUIRER
'stig
speed
Pinoy bands, Bikini Open and La Visa Loca
Manila fashion festival
Luna-chic awards highlights

Astros trample level NL series

ST. LOUIS—ROY OSWA
tional innings and Brad
ton Astros claimed a 4-
nals on Thursday, level
League Championship Seri

The Houston win was the
postseason games stretching
won by the Cardinals in seven

"What you saw tonight
big stage and we've had
park," said Astros manage
took control, and did a su

The Astros now head h
next three games with ace Ro
the mound for Game Three

Oswalt, however, was in th
day as the righthander allowe
to Albert Pujols—on five hi
walking three to earn the dec
over to Lidge.

The Houston closer, who h
Cardinals in 30 innings stret
tinued his domination w
lief to seal the win.

"I think this is huge," said
really necessary. Everyone k
This should be a big lift for u
on the mound backed up a gr
tros scored their first two run
out before Chris Burke ended
runners in scoring positio

Burke, who homered f
of Game Four of the Divis
Astros with timely hittin
twice.

A passed ball allowed
out in the second inning
with the opening run to
position—,trailing for the
this season.

The pitching duel betw
der and Oswalt continue
ground out to short scor
Astros in front 2-0.

The Cardinals finally
connecting on a thunderi

But the Astros answer
the eight on an RBI sing
triple from Adam Everett

"He (Oswalt) pitched
dinals manager Tony La
chances with our best RB

"It was the kind of ga
gie Sanders left the gam
jury after diving onto
chase down Everett's tri
in the postseason, conn
division series against
run homer in Game C

Mauresm out of Kr

MOSCOW—SECOND S
Amelie Mauresmo
dumped from the Kren
Cup in the second round
unseeded Italian Frances
Schiavone, 6-1, 6-1,
Thursday, joining sev
other high-profile player
the sidelines of the $2.3
lion tournament.

On Wednesday, m
top two seeds, Niko
Davydenko and Dom
Hrbaty, both went ou
the first round, while wo
number one and wome
top seed Maria Sharapova
ter her opponent, Anna
leading, 6-1 4-2, with an

"Today was one of th
wrong," Mauresmo said

"I tried to approach
play from the baselin
Frenchwoman, who co

"My attempts to play
ing Mauresmo in the op
Schiavone won the next
four finally got on the scoreb

But there was no turnin
who quickly wrapped up the
an ace in just 61 minut

2 Fil-Am bea

From page A28

invitational tournament
east Asian nations.

Ilustre and Pascua a
from their regular stint
sional circuit in the US an
a very lethal tandem tha
regional powerhouses
Malaysia and Vietnam.

Ilustre, who now resid
made more than $30,00
AVP Tour, while Pascua,
job as coach of Santa
School and the Solana
club, owns the distinction
only the sixth player in AV
complete 1,000 kills in a car

Philippine Amateur Volle
ation director Richard Palo
va knows nothing of this at the

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

NOTICE is hereby given that series of original stock certificate of Kapco Manufacturing Corporation stated below was declared lost.

Number	Stockholder	# of shares
001	Kurosaka Plating Co. Ltd	119,995
002	Yoshihisa Kurosaka	1
003	Ryushi Naito	1
004	Enrico M. Ingles	1
005	Ma. Theresa B. Paulino	1
006	Joel M. Eusebio	1
007	Kurosaka Plating Co. Ltd.	91,700
008	Ketsuke Miyazawa	2,500
009	Emiko Chigusa	250
010	Setsuko Urakami	250
011	Takaaki Minami	250
012	Shuji Mizoguchi	250
013	Hisaka Takagi	250
014	Kuroda Electric Co. Ltd	120,000
015	Kurosaka Plating Co. Inc.	120,000
016	Ryushi Naito	7,199

If no contest is received within prescriptive period, new certificate will be issued.

(PDI--Sept. 28, Oct. 7 & 15, 2005)

PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY
PORT DISTRICT OFFICE OF VISAYAS
CIP COMPLEX, SERGIO OSMEÑA BLVD., NORTH RECLAMATION AREA, CEBU CITY, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NO. (032) 2323401-04, FAX NO. (032) 2321990, ppavis@globelines.com.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY, Port District Office – Visayas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

A.

Name of Contract	**Port Development/Improvement**
Location	Port of Basiao, Ivisan, Capiz
Brief Description	Reclamation, Concrete Pavement & Stairlanding
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	P 8,869,687 93
Source of Funds	PPA Corporate Fund
Contract Duration	One Hundred Five (105) Calendar Days
PCAB Registration	Small B "Port, Harbor & Offshore Engineering
Required Equipments	

1) 1 unit Road Grader (125 hp)
2) 1 unit Road Roller (Vibratory 10.0T)
3) 1 unit Bar Cutter
4) 2 units Concrete Vibrator
5) 1 unit Dump Truck (10.0 cu.m.)
6) 1 unit Backhoe (0 50 cu m.)
7) 2 units One Bagger Concrete Mixer

B:

Name of Contract	**Dredging of the Port of Baybay**
Location	Port of Baybay, Leyte
Brief Description	Dredging (Volume = 80,000 00 CU.M.)
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	P 15,493,507 99
Source of Funds	PPA Corporate Fund
Contract Duration	Ninety Three (93) Calendar Days
PCAB Registration	Medium A "Port, Harbor & Offshore Engineering
Required Equipments	

1) 2 units Non-propelled Grab Type Dredger, GW 320T, with a mechanically operated Crane 60T cap., 3.0 cu m. grab bucket capacity;
2) 3 units Non-propelled hopper barge DWT 800 T; 300 cu.m. net capacity;
3) 2 units Tugboat, 500 HP,
4) 1 units EDM,
5) 1 unit Echosounder
6) 2 units Theodolite

C:

Name of Contract	**Dredging at the Port of Bato**
Location	Port of Bato, Bato, Leyte
Brief Description	Dredging (Volume = 20,000.00 cu.m.)
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	P 4,040,957 82
Source of Funds	PPA Corporate Fund
Contract Duration	Twenty Three (23) Calendar Days
PCAB Registration	Small B "Port, Harbor & Offshore Engineering
Required Equipments	

1) 2 units Non-propelled Grab Type Dredger, GW 320T, with a mechanically operated Crane 60T cap. 3.0 cu.m. grab bucket capacity;
2) 2 units Non-propelled hopper barge DWT 800T; 300 cu.m. net capacity;
3) 2 units Tugboat, 500 HP;
4) 1 unit EDM,
5) 1 unit Echosounder
6) 2 units Theodolite

D:

Name of Contract	**Dredging at the Port of Hilongos**
Location	Port of Hilongos, Leyte
Brief Description	Dredging (Volume = 20,000 00 cu.m.)
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	P 4,040, 957 82
Source of Funds	PPA Corporate Fund
Contract Duration	Twenty Three (23) Calendar Days
PCAB Registration	Small "B" Port, Harbor & Offshore Engineering
Required Equipments	

1) 2 units Non-propelled Grab Type Dredger, GW 320T, with a mechanically opened Crane 60T cap , 3.0 cu.m grab bucket capacity
2) 2 units Non-propelled hopper barge DWT 800T; 300 cu.m. net capacity;
3) 2 units Tugboat, 500 HP,
4) 1 unit EDM,
5) 1 unit Echosounder
6) 2 units Theodolite

E:

Name of Contract	**Dredging at the Calbayog**
Location	Port of Calbayog, Samar
Brief Description	Dredging Volume = 70,000.00 cu.m.)
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	P 13,803,782 37
Source of Funds	PPA Corporate Fund
Contract Duration	Eighty Three (83) Calendar Days
PCAB Registration	Medium A "Port, Harbor & Offshore Engineering
Required Equipments	

7) 2 units Non-propelled Grab Type Dredger, GW 320T, with a mechanically operated Crane 60T cap., 3.0 cu m. grab bucket capacity
8) 3 units Non-propelled hopper barge DWT 800T, 300 cu.m. net capacity;
9) 2 units Tugboat, 500 HP;
10) 1 unit EDM,
11) 1 unit Echosounder
12) 2 units Theodolite

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows.

	BAC Activities	Schedule
1.	Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	October 31 – November 7, 2005
2.	Issuance of Eligibility Forms	October 31 – November 7, 2005
3.	Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	November 7 – 14, 2005
4.	Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	November 25, 2005
5.	Issuance of Bid Documents	November 29, 2005
6.	Pre-bid Conference	December 1, 2005
7.	Receipt and Opening of Bids	December 12, 2005

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Visayas, CIP Complex, Sergio Osmeña Blvd., North Reclamation Area, Cebu City upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,000.00 to the Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Visayas Cashier, Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

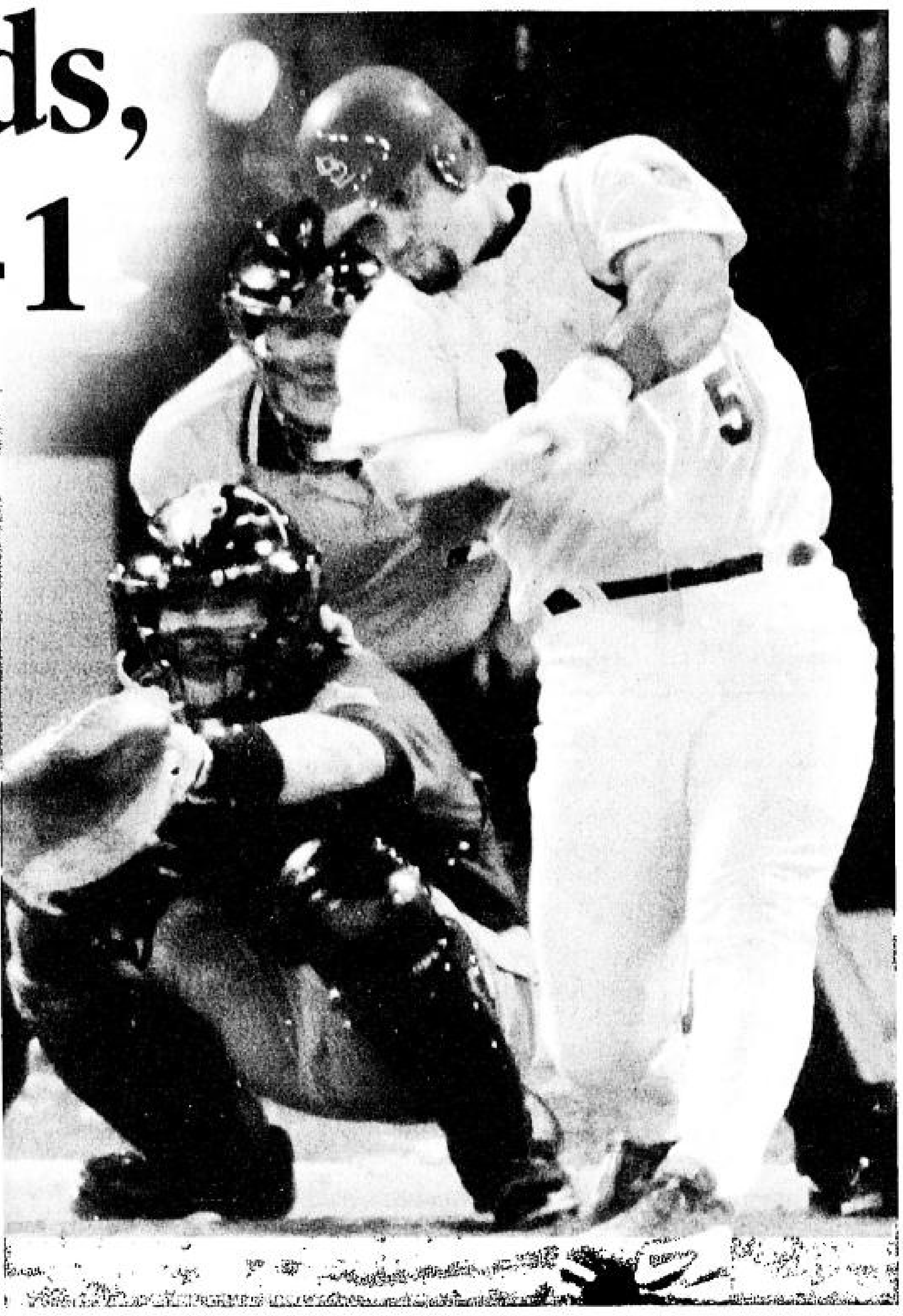
The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P10,000.00 to the Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Visayas Cashier.

The Philippine Ports Authority, Port District Office – Visayas assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by
(Sgd.) ATTY. SARAH R. MIJARES
BAC Chairman

(PDI – October 15 & 24, 2005)

Cards, at 1-1



CARDINALS' Albert Pujols (5) hits a home run off Astros' Roy Oswalt in the sixth inning of Game 2 of the National League Championship Series, Thursday. AP

DELIVERED SEVEN SENSA- ge finished up as the Hous- in over the St. Louis Cardi- the best-of-seven National es at a game each.

first at Busch stadium in six back to last season's NLCS games.

ot unusual for Roy. This was a uble winning games in this il Garner. "He stepped up, and ob."

to Minute Maid Park for the er Clemens scheduled to take Saturday.

pitching spotlight on Thurs- d just one run—a solo homer s while striking out six and sion before turning the game

s not surrendered a run to the hing back to May 2003, con- g two scoreless innings of re-

idge. "To get a win today was ows we play well at home. ." The standout performance ty effort at the plate as the As- on a passed ball and ground Houston's 0-14 drought with h an RBI single in the eighth. e winning run in 18th inning eries, once again provided the riving in a run and scoring

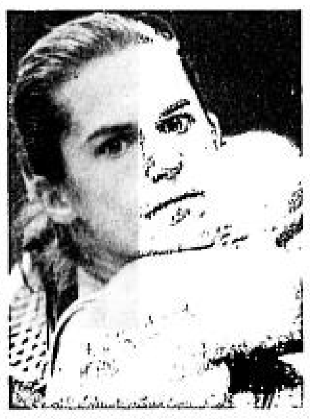
tcher Yadier Molina with two- wed Burke to charge across he Cardinals in an unfamiliar t time in five playoff games

Cardinals starter Mark Mul- o the fifth when Craig Biggio rad Ausmus and pushing the

o Oswalt in the sixth, Pujols adoff homer. th a pair of insurance runs in om Burke and a run scoring

me he's capable of," said Car- . "We had three or four or five up and he made the pitches. e expected." Cardinals' Reg- he eighth inning with an in- arning track attempting to le had been the hottest hitter for a record 10 RBIs in the an Diego Padres and a two- f the NLCS on Wednesday. *Reuters*

tumbles mlin Cup



MAURESMO

as lucky to escape defeat af- e Groenefeld, retired while le injury. days when everything goes

but it didn't work. I tried to was no better," added the ed 33 unforced errors. idn't work either." After break- game and then going up 2-1, mes before the world number rd once again. ack for the seasoned Italian, match in the next game with *Reuters*

...

South-

h fresh profes- ld form l battle ailand,

Hawaii, t year's om her hristian volley coming story to

Associ- the Pa- oment.

Bizarre call still buzzing Angels' ears

LOS ANGELES—THE ANGELS DIDN'T LET lack of rest stop them winning game one of the American League Championship Series, but they might have thought sleep deprivation was causing them to hallucinate in Wednesday's game two.

The Angels, who were playing their fourth game in as many days in a schedule that saw them criss-cross the country, thought they had recorded the final out of the ninth to take the White Sox to extra innings in Chicago.

With two out and no one on in the bottom of the ninth, batter AJ Pierzynski swung through Kelvim Escobar's split-fingered fastball and home plate umpire Doug Eddings appeared to call strike three.

But with the Angels players streaming toward the dugout, Pierzynski sprinted to first, arguing the ball had bounced and Angels catcher Josh Paul therefore needed to tag him to get the out.

After much arguing, Pierzynski was given the base. He was replaced by pinch runner Pablo Ozuna who stole second base and Joe Crede then drove in the winning run with a double off the left field fence to tie the best-of-seven series at one game apiece.

"I know I haven't seen it all, and I never will. That's the beauty of the game, even if sometimes it stinks," Angels first baseman Darin Erstad said philosophically.

Erstad vowed the Angels would put the incident behind them when the series moves to California on Friday for game three.

"We're going to respond like we always do," he said. "It's over, we lost and we'll move on to Friday. What happened, happened." The White Sox weren't looking a gift horse in the mouth.

"It was definitely a break," said Chicago center fielder Aaron Rowand. "I don't know if the ball bounced or not, but we'll take it. It gives us a ray of hope to get something going." *AFP*

Wie debuts with 70; Sorenstam up

PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA—MICHELLE Wie admitted her heart was thumping when she stood over the first shot, but the 16-year-old was satisfied by the time she completed her first round as a professional, scoring a 2-under-par 70 at the Women's World Championship at Bighorn Golf Club in Palm Desert, California.

While defending champion Annika Sorenstam, seeking a record fifth win in the Championship, had a flawless eight under par 64 to lead by a shot from American Cristie Kerr and South Korea's Gloria Park, Wie was tied for 12th at six shots behind.

"I think I did pretty well," said the Hawaiian teenager who signed endorsement deals reputedly worth $10 million when she turned professional last week.

"But I also think I can do better and that will hopefully happen the rest of the week.

"I wasn't nervous before I started, but then when I teed up the ball on the first hole my heart was thumping. It's pretty fun getting butterflies, and I was just pleased I hit a good shot."

In fact, the three-wood opening blow led to regulation par four at the 405-yard first—the 20-foot birdie putt just slipped by—and she went on to make her first birdie as a professional at the second, hitting a pitching wedge second shot to two feet.

More birdies followed at the seventh, tenth and 12th before she made her first bogey at the 14th and then another at the 18th where she hit into two bunkers to shed another shot at the 18th.

"I didn't really feel any different than when I played as an amateur," continued Wie, who was playing in her 25th LPGA tournament and with a resumé that includes four Top 10s in majors.

"I wasn't thinking about the money, but it will be nice to get a check on Sunday." Sorenstam might have been overshadowed by the hype surrounding Wie, but she gave everyone a master-class performance with a flawless eight-birdie round.

She started the round by holing from 10 feet for birdie—it just toppled in the side—and added more at the fourth, sixth, seventh and eighth to be out in 31. *Reuters*

WIE acknowledges the gallery applause after teeing off from the first hole. AP

Ballesteros returns, shoots 6-over 77

MADRID—SEVE BALLESTEROS BATTLED to a 6-over-par 77 in his first tournament appearance for two years at the Madrid Open on Thursday.

The five-time major winner, who has regained fitness after a long struggle with back and knee problems, mixed two double-bogeys with five dropped shots and three birdies at a wet and overcast Club de Campo.

However, the Spaniard described his opening effort as the "beginning of a new era" and did enough to please a small crowd, including one moment of masterful magic when he hit a five-wood while on his knees in a spinney at the first, his 10th hole.

"The problem was the start," said the 48-year-old, who last played in a strokeplay event at this tournament in 2003.

"I was a bit tense and it made the rest of the day difficult to stabilize my momentum.

"It was not easy to come back. Everything was fine until I walked on to the first tee and then I started to feel a bit tight.

"But I started to play well on the back nine, more like I felt before the start of my round." Ballesteros made a stumbling start, driving into trees at the 10th to bogey and double-bogeying the short 11th where he missed the green, clipped tree branches and three-putted as his renowned short-game let him down.

His tension showed when he added another double-bogey at the par-four 15th on his way to an ugly outward nine of 6-over 41.

However, the Spaniard upped his game after the turn.

He offset a bogey at the second with a birdie at the fourth, produced a couple of par-saving putts from 10 feet and picked up his third shot of the day at the par-five seventh.

Although he missed a four-footer for par at the eighth, he completed the nine in level-par 36.

"I didn't have many good breaks today," said Ballesteros.

"Whenever I make a mistake, the ball was always in a bad lie and on the first, when I hit to the left under a tree, the branches were quite low and I had to bend on to my knees.

"I hit a five-wood just the way I wanted but it just hit the branches of a tree and didn't make the green. But I still made a good putt." The three-time British Open champion, who came into this week with high hopes and thoughts of a possible 51st European Tour victory, will struggle to make the cut after finishing third from bottom of the field.

"I hit some good shots, though," he added. "That's the beginning, the beginning of a new era for me.

"It will be much easier tomorrow and, if we have good weather, I am sure I am going to score well." His last official tournament was the 2003 Seve Trophy and his last victory came in the 1995 Spanish Open at Club de Campo.

However, his career has nose-dived since and he does not now have a world ranking, largely due to injury but also because of swing problems. *Reuters*

Pistons thwart Bucks

PACERS' Ron Artest (right) wraps up Jazz's Keith McLeod as he shoots in the third quarter in Indianapolis, Thursday. AP

AUBURN HILLS, MICHIGAN—CHAUNCEY Billups scored 16 points and Darko Milicic added 10 points and nine rebounds Thursday to help the Detroit Pistons beat the Milwaukee Bucks, 95-88, in NBA preseason play.

Tayshaun Prince added 10 points for Detroit while Ben Wallace had eight points and 13 rebounds.

Maurice Williams led the Bucks with 19 points, while former Michigan State star Charlie Bell, who last played in the NBA in 2002, had 12.

Milwaukee was missing three key players to injury—Michael Redd (groin), T.J. Ford (hand) and Joe Smith (knee). Andrew Bogut, the top pick in this year's draft, started and scored three points in 21 minutes. He had six rebounds and four fouls.

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Richard Jefferson and Jason Kidd scored 10 points each to lead New Jersey over shorthanded Charlotte, 95-76.

The Nets, who held the Bobcats to 31 percent shooting, won despite committing 22 turnovers.

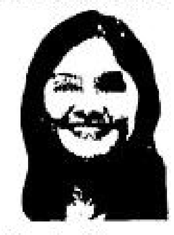
Antonio Meeking scored 14 points and fellow rookie Raymond Felton added 10 for Charlotte.

The Bobcats were without six players, including Emeka Okafor, who missed his second straight game with a sprained right ankle.

At Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Jarvis Hayes scored 19 points and Washington spoiled San Antonio star Tim Duncan's college homecoming, 95-91. *AP*

La Salle U case big nat'l issue

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

I CAN'T BELIEVE the De La Salle U issue has become a serious concern of national magnitude. I'm not exaggerating. People have been calling, texting, sending e-mail regarding this matter, I thought I might as well conduct a survey to get a pulse. My query: If you were the UAAP board, how would you sanction DLSU for fielding in an ineligible player?

Here are the answers:

"Forfeiture of all games in the last 3 years and suspension in the men's basketball tournament. Other DLSU sports squads should not suffer from the mistake of one team."–Jasmine Payo (UAAP Press Corps), Phil. Daily Inquirer.

"The school officials and others found responsible should be banned from the UAAP, not the school. The player is the victim, not the scapegoat. He should be allowed to play once he qualifies. He already has suffered enough from others' mistakes." –Ricky. Vargas, PBA governor/Ateneo alumnus.

"One year ban, but I wonder if the UAAP could afford it. *Paano na ang* marketing *ng* league? A UAAP without La Salle is probably like a PBA without Ginebra."–A. Cordero (UAAP Press Corps), Phil. Star.

"I don't want to make any comment regarding this issue, Ma'am Beth. I hope you understand. Thanks." –Koy Banal, 2004 FEU coach

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"I would suspend La Salle for one year like Adamson previously, for deception. La Salle knew as early as Aug. 9 from the Department of Education that something was wrong. Although no one knows the exact wording of the DepEd reply to the La Salle registrar, Benitez should not have been used. The coach should be relieved because he fielded Benitez even if he knew *na tagilid ang* papers *nito.* La Salle is trying to soften the blow by using the alumni to answer questions." –Ignacio Dee, Manila Standard.

"Pilo (Pumaren) is like a father to me, I don't want to add further woes to the family. Let the UAAP board make the decision."–Norman Black, Ateneo coach.

"Biases aside, the UAAP board should look at this matter in isolation. If it's the school's fault, then prosecute the school. If it's just the player's fault, then prosecute him only. *Kawawa naman yung ibang* players, the school itself and the La Salle community if they are robbed of the championship, *kung wala naman silang kasalanan or kinalaman sa nangyari.*" –Mikee Romero, La Salle alumnus/supporter and Harbour Centre owner (from Shanghai, China).

***

"The school should be banned for one season and the coaching staff expelled. They should be held responsible for what happened."–R.C, La Salle alumnus/Red Bull exec.

"Since there's obviously no complicity on the part of the school, a suspension of any kind is out of the question. Under UAAP rules, complicity must be proved to warrant a school suspension. In this case La Salle stepped forward although it didn't have to. La Salle could have kept quiet and no one would have said anything. Besides, the player in question wouldn't have been eligible next year, due to failing grades. The UAAP board must use this case as the trigger point to clear its ranks of ineligible players and preserve the integrity of the league. Returning the 2004 trophy and forfeiting its 2nd place finish this year would be sufficient penalties for the oversight." –Quinito Henson, La Salle alumnus/ Phil. Star Columnist.

"Something simply doesn't fit. Dr. Nelia Benito of the DECS Testing Center says she couldn't quite remember the exact date on which La Salle was informed of the problem of Mark Benitez, but stressed "it was definitely not this month," which meant that La Salle must have known that Benitez was ineligible and should not have suited him up in the finals which began Sept. 29.

"Whether it was an oversight or a deliberate attempt by individuals in the institution to hide the fact, we will not know right now. But with the report that La Salle was informed as early as Aug. 9, it raises very serious questions of culpability if not connivance.

***

"Besides, coach Franz Pumaren said he knew about the problem on the morning of Game 2, but still played Benitez because there was no verification or confirmation of his ineligibility. Yet Fr. Max Rendon says he received a letter from La Salle about the problem of having used an ineligible player the morning of Game 2. It simply means La Salle had officially informed UAAP, so what confirmation or verification are we talking about?

"We hope the young player won't be sacrificed to save the perpetrators amid efforts to save the institution and also to save the lucrative commercial gain from not suspending La Salle. Let's not sacrifice integrity for profit. There should be profit with honor and let's totally discard the mentality of winning at all costs." –Ronnie Nathanielsz, Manila Standard columnist.

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RP under-15 clouters 2nd

TEAM PHILIPPINES, REPRESENTED BY 13- TO 15-YEAR-OLD BOYS from the City of Marikina, bagged the first runner-up trophy behind a team of Japanese youth carrying the flag of Singapore in the 2nd South Asia 15-U Nankyu Baseball Tournament held in Singapore recently.

The Filipino batters bowed to Singapore, 1-0, in the championship game. At full count in the fifth inning, right fielder Daisuke Hamaji scored on a double to deep centerfield by shortstop Kenjiro Shirakura.

Shirakura's blast off Filipino hurler Irvin Glen Tuazon was the only RBI and hit of the game.

Infielder Gian Paulo Llaguno was later adjudged Most Valuable Player, while catcher Luke Paolo Bernardo took the best player plum.

Team Marikina earned the right to represent the Philippines in the event by bagging third place in the 5th Pan Pacific Nankyu 15U Baseball Tournament held in August in Marikina City.

The team was sponsored by Rep. Del de Guzman, Mayor Marides C. Fernando and the city council, the Philippine Sports Commission, Min Shiang Corp., Pioneer Epoxy and Barangka Cooperative.

Shell Youth Active Chess gets going

THE COUNTRY'S future chess stars take center stage starting today with the holding of the grand finals of the kiddies and junior divisions of the 2005 Shell National Youth Active Chess Championships at the SM City North Edsa. The 48 survivors of the tough nationwide eliminations sponsored by Pilipinas Shell fight it out for top honors. Jose Roble Jr. of University of San Jose-Recoletos, Ellan Asuela of Domingo Lacson National High, Froilan Bolico and Christian Arroyo lead the 24-player under-20 field in the battle for the P30,000 purse in the 9-round Swiss system tournament that ends tomorrow. Heading the 14-under cast is Franz Robert Grafil, the 11-year-old find from Colegio de San Pascual Baylon in Bulacan who was the only player to score a sweep in the Northern Luzon leg in Tuguegarao.

100 fights up today at Roligon

THE MUCH-AWAITED Stag Festival 5-stag derby of Roligon Mega Cockpit gets under way at 2 p.m. today with more than 100 exciting fights sponsored by Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Enertone. Host Rolly Ligon has put up a cash prize of P1.3 million, plus an Izusu 4x4 Big Horn for the "fastest winner." The entry fee was reduced to P7,700 so new cockers and breeders can vie. "Through the years, Roligon has maintained its reputation as everybody's cockpit," he said. The finals is on Wednesday. Stags previously banded for the Show-down derby will be accepted, but only those with Y and R classifications. Assisting Ligon in the derby are pit managers Renato Shio, Gerald Go and Abu Centeno. For inquiries, call 851-2275, 833-1638, 852-9812 or 0917-8277484.

Stagfighter of Year race heats up

THE STAGFIGHTER OF the Year race of the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) heats up this Monday with the staging of another 5-stag derby at the Makati Coliseum. The Fajinfer entry of partners Pepito Ngo, Jet Fernando and the Jingco Brothers leads the series with 20.5 points after six PCAP derbies. Willie Vilarica's VP Alegria Uma slid to second place with 20. Other top contenders are Sonny Lagon and Gerry Ramos (Blue Blade Joke Joke Joke), 19.5 ; Boy Marzo (BM Bulalayaw), 19; Ruel Ricafort (RT 114), 19; Makati Vice Mayor Nestor Mercado (Grand Villa Butterfly), 18.5; Efren Canlas (Bacolor Gold), 16.5; Rudy Albano (RJ Mulawin), 16 and William Co (Spencer), 16.

Local Digital Features

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(Ana Capri, Ebong Joson) Directed by: Bricio Santos

ANG DAAN PATUNGONG KALIMUGTONG
(Analyn Bangsi-il, Nemee Tocdangan, Rhenuel Ordono) Directed by: Ramon De Guzman

CUT
(Joel Torre) Directed by: Jon Red

DILIM
(Rica Peralejo, Mario Magallona, Emilio Garcia) Directed by: Topel Lee

ILUSYON
(Yul Servo, JC Parker) Directed by: Paulo Villaluz / Ellen Ramos

MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE AND JOHN
(Richard Quan, Neil Ryan Sese, Maria Isabel Lopez) Directed by: Gil Portes

TRABAHO
(Ping Medina, Sigrid Bernardo) Directed by: Ned Trespeces

TULI
(Desiree Del Valle, Carlo Aquino) Directed by: Auraeus Solito

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2	WALLACE & GROMIT	1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00	GP
3	LORD OF WAR	12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00	R-13
4	40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN	12:30, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:00	R-13

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3 (DOLBY)	LORD OF WAR	R13
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6 GOLD (SDDS)	LORD OF WAR
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WALLACE & GROMIT 12:00 / 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40	INTO THE BLUE 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20
DUNGEONS & DRAGONS 2 12:50 / 3:40 / 6:30 / 9:20	DUBAI 1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10
CORPSE BRIDE 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00	TRANSPORTER 2 1:20 / 3:20 / 5:20 / 7:20 / 9:20

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❷ LORD OF WAR 11:55 / 2:45 / 5:35 / 8:25	❺ DEUCE BIGALOW 2 12:10 R3 / 1:25 / 3:40 / 5:55 / 8:10
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RP's Salim vies for WBC Youth title

REMAN SALIM OF THE PHILIPPINES goes for the World Boxing Council Youth super bantamweight title against undefeated Mexican titleholder Miguel "Mickey Mouse" Roman at the El Poliforo in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, today.

Roman and the Bago City-raised Salim, both 20 years old, came in at 122 lbs. during yesterday's official weigh-in at the Fiesta Inn in Ciudad Juarez.

The lanky Salim parades a 9-2 win-loss record with two knockouts, while Roman boasts of a 12-0, 8 KOs, card.

"I only know he is Filipino and all the Philippine fighters are tough," Roman said in a Fightnews interview when asked about Salim. "It will be an exciting fight."

Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

Bumgarner victory caps big kart year

BUMGARNER

IT DIDN'T COME to a down-the-wire finish, but Michelle Bumgarner's title victory capped an exciting season for the 2005 Shell Superkarting Series at the Carmona Circuit Philippines.

"The odds were great and Matteo was still leading after Race 2," said Bumgarner. "I believe it was Divine intervention that changed the scenario in the final race. God must have intended the blessing for me, and I still get teary-eyed when I think about it."

Engine problems had already bogged Guidicelli's bid in Race 2 as he finished second, a far 3.261 seconds off Bumgarner.

In the final race, Gudicelli could not get his kart started during the formation lap. When he got it started, he was half a lap behind the pack and was still lagging behind the rest when the green light flashed.

The final brought about a most colorful climax in the 13-year-history of the series sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines and sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Honda Phils., Denso Iridium Power, Bridgestone by Phil. Allied Ent. Corp., DMCI Homes, Eastway Motorcycle Racing, Aeromed and Aviva Insurance.

Santo Tomas, PUP bets renew rivalry

UAAP TITLIST UNIVERSITY OF SANTO Tomas and fancied arch rival Polytechnic University of the Philippines stay on target for another exciting men's team division final encounter when the 2005 Milo All-Students Tennis Championship resumes today at the Philam Homes Tennis Club.

UST ousted San Beda, 2-0, to advance to the semifinal round against DLSU-B; while PUP trounced UST-B, 2-0, to catch a last-four ticket with DLSU-A in the event organized by CTW and supported by Adidas and Sports Resources Inc., distributors of Prince tennis equipment.

Likewise aching to get back at their recent Adidas team event tormentors is darkhorse DLSU-A, which blanked College of St. Benilde, 2-0, and DLSU-B, a walk-over victor past San Sebastian in a pair of quarterfinal contests last weekend.

Autocross Round 2 up today

ROUND TWO OF THE Super Autocross of Team Nitro Motorsports' Grand Prix Series fires off today at the open parking lots H and I of the SM City Fairview.

Reuel Almario of Wheelers' Club International, Leila Dandan of Team Nitro Motorsports and son Wilfred Gabriel P. Dandan of Angelicum College will flag off the races starting at 10 a.m.

Drivers' registration starts at 8 a.m. Highlights of the one-day event are the National Rally Sprint Competition, College Autocross Racing (CAR) and Club Competition.

The 2005 Autocross Grand Prix Series is presented by SM City Fairview, SM Supermalls, Auto Extreme, Wheelers Club International, Symtech Auto Engineering, NET 25 and Bridgestone and is sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines.

Participants will compete in the Newbie, Novice, Experienced, PRO and CAR divisions. Top finishers will earn points for the Championship Round set Nov. 26 and 27.

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CINEMA 5 DEUCE BIGALOW 2 - R13 10:45, 12:40, 2:35, 4:30, 6:25, 8:20, 10:15

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3 LORD OF WAR
MTRCB R-13
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THE 40 YEAR-OLD VIRGIN R13 12:00,2:25,4:50,7:15,9:40	DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20, 7:40,10:00	LORD OF WAR R13 12:00,2:30,5:00, 7:30,10:00

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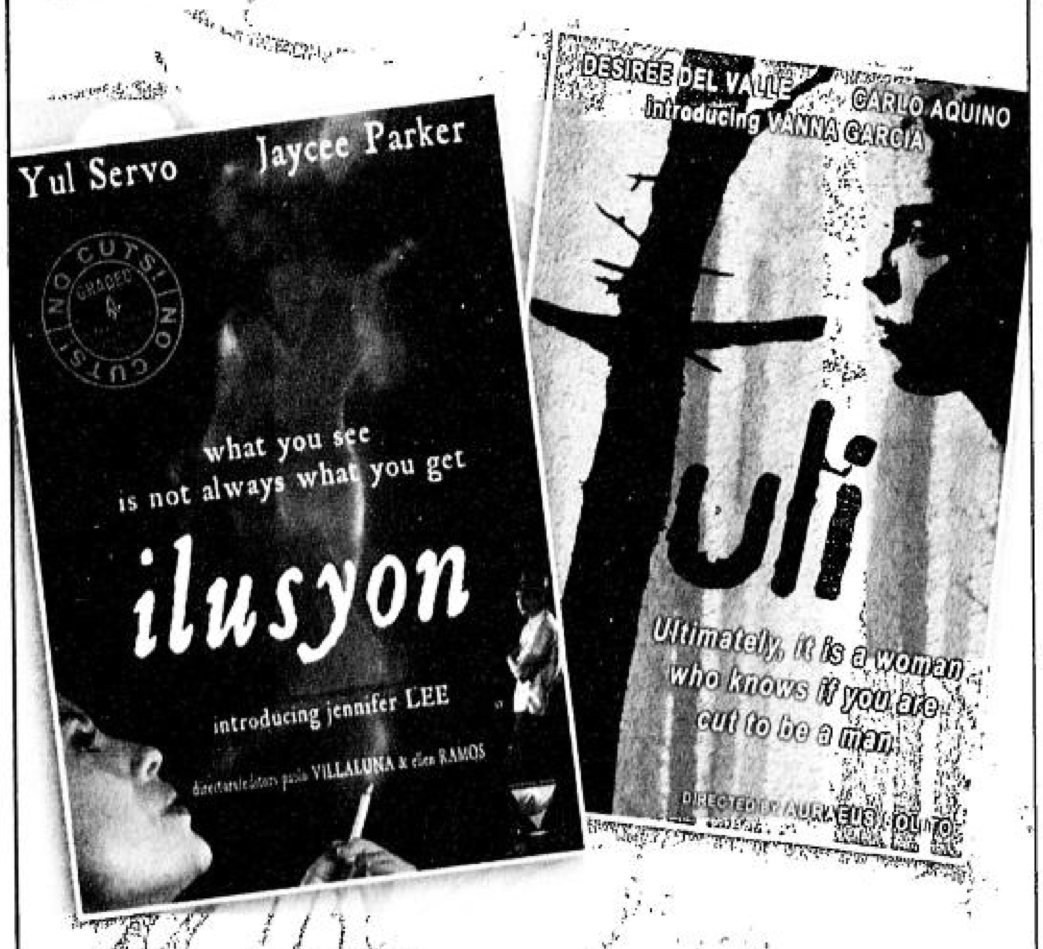

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2 WALLACE & GROMIT
11:45FS/12:15MF/02:20
03:55LFS/4:25LMF/6:00END
LORD OF WAR
6:00FS/06:30MF/08:30LFS/09:00LMF/11:00END

MEGAMALL
LORD OF WAR
10:15FS/10:20MF/12:40/3:00/5:20/7:40
09:40LFS/10:00LMF/12:00END

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1 INTO THE BLUE
10:50FS/11:00MF/01:06/03:12/05:18/07:24
09:19LFS/09:30LMS/11:25END
2 LORD OF WAR
10:30FS/10:40MF/12:50/03:00/05:10/7:20
09:20LFS/09:30LMF/11:30END
3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
10:20FS/10:30MF/12:20/02:10/04:00/05:50/7:40
09:05LFS/09:30LMF/10:55END

MANILA
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09:25LFS/09:40LMF/11:35END

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6 INTO THE BLUE
7 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
8 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
9 DUBAI
10 TRUMPETS: LITTLE MERMAID
11 DUNGEONS AND DRAGON
12 LAND OF THE DEAD

SM CITY STA MESA
1 LORF OF WAR
2 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
5 DUBAI
6 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
7 INTO THE BLUE
8 WALLACE & GROMIT
9 TRANSPORTER 2
10 LAND OF THE DEAD

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
2 LORD OF WAR
3 DUBAI
4 DEUCE BIGALOW 2

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 DUNGEONS & DRAGONS
2 TRANSPORTER 2
3 LAND OF DEAD
4 INTO THE BLUE
5 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
6 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
7 LORD OF WAR
8 WALLACE AND GROMIT
9 DUBAI
10 BROTHERS GRIMM
11 BLADE OF ROSE
12 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 LORD OF WAR
2 DUBAI
3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
4 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
5 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
6 TRANSPORTER 2
7 INTO THE BLUE
8 WALLACE AND GROMIT
9 HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
10 LAND OF THE DEAD

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 LORD OF WAR
2 DUBAI
3 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
4 DEUCE BIGALOW 2

SM NORTH EDSA
1 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
2 WALLACE AND GROMIT
3 DUBAI
4 DUNGEONS AND DRAGON
5 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
6 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
7 INTO THE BLUE
8 LORD OF WAR

SM CITY MANILA
1 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
2 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
3 INTO THE BLUE
4 LORD OF WAR
5 WALLACE AND GROMIT
6 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
7 CINEMANILA
8 CINEMANILA
9 DUBAI
10 LAND OF THE DEAD
11 DUBAI
12 CINEMANILA

SM SAN LAZARO
1 LORD OF WAR
2 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
3 WALLACE AND GROMIT
4 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS
5 CINEMANILA
6 DUBAI

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 LORD OF WAR
2 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
3 CONSTANT GARDENER
4 INTO THE BLUE
5 ONE MISSED CALL 2
6 DUBAI

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 LORD OF WAR
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
3 DUBAI
4 DUECE BIGALOW 2

SM CITY BACOOR
1 TRANSPORTER 2
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3 LORD OF WAR
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
5 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
6 DUBAI
7 TIM BURTON'S CORPSE BRIDE
8 INTO THE BLUE

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1 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
2 LORD OF WAR
3 DUBAI
4 BROTHERS GRIMM

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SM CITY CEBU
1 INTO THE BLUE
2 LORD OF WAR
3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
4 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN
5 DARK WATER
6 LAND OF THE DEAD
7 DUBAI
8 BROTHERS GRIMM

SM CITY ILOILO
1 PERFECT MAN
2 RESERVED
3 DUBAI
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 DUECE BIGALOW 2
6 TRANSPORTER 2
7 RESERVED
8 CONSTANT GARDENER

SM CITY DAVAO
1 TRANSPORTER 2
2 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
3 DUBAI
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
6 LORD OF WAR

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
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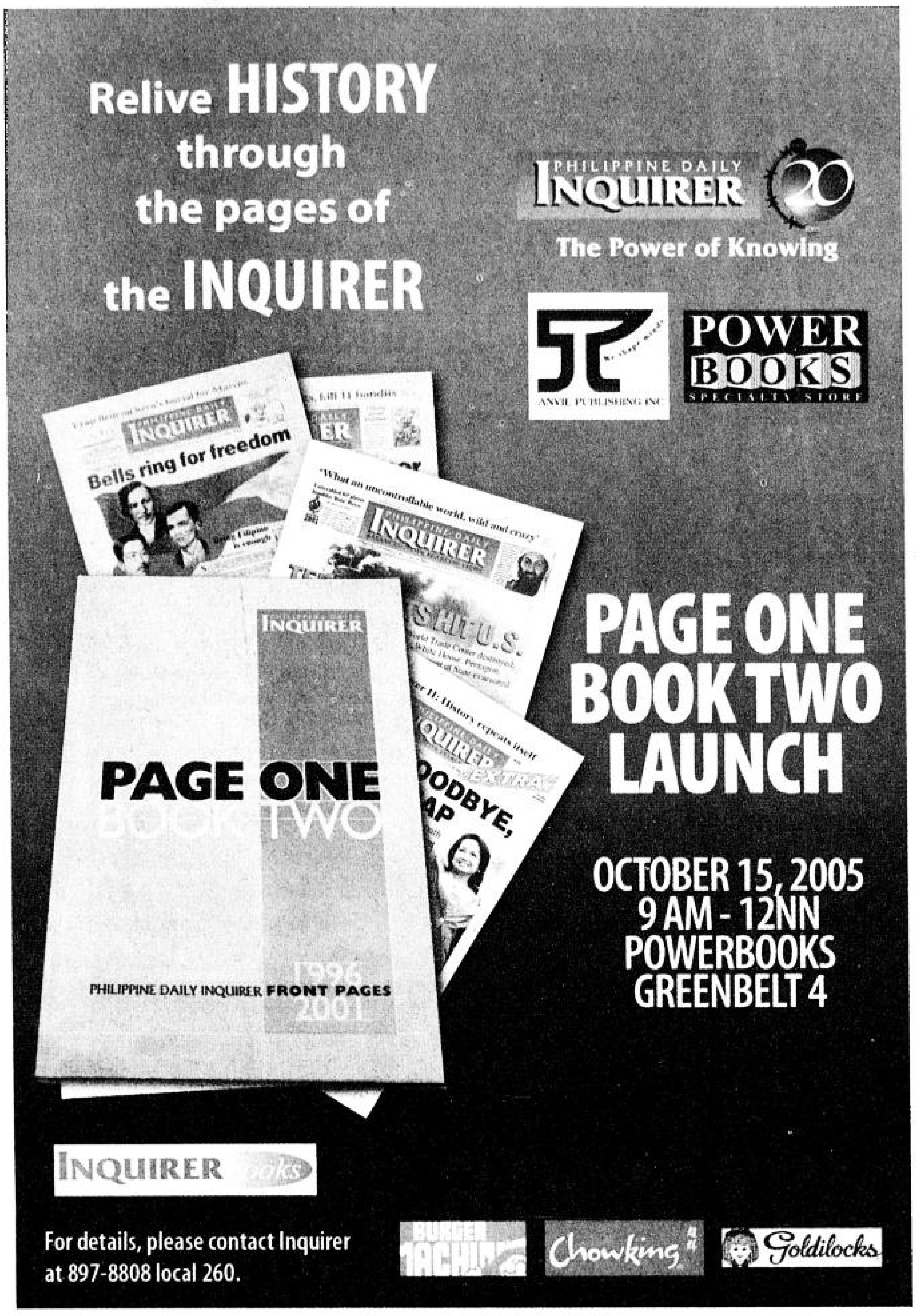
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2 Fil-Am beach volley teams eye SEAG stints

By Musong R. Castillo

WHAT WE'LL MISS INDOOR may be a sure thing on the beach.

Four Fil-Americans who will comprise two beach volley teams will be coming over at their own expense to play for the Philippines in the coming Southeast Asian Games.

Heidi Ilustre and Diane Pascua, born to Filipino parents here, and Chad Mowrey and Justine Schonor will be planing in on Nov. 20, just one week before the Games open, to give the country a hand in the beach volley events in Bacolod.

"They want to play for the Philippines," RP team coach Otie Camangian said. "In fact, they'll be paying for their own expenses just to get here.

"What we promised them, though, is that we'll take care of everything when they get here."

Their decision to represent the country is considered a welcome development after the women's indoor volleyball team took a sound beating in a recent

2 FIL-AM/ A25

MAP GOLFEST: Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) president Simon Paterno hits the ceremonial drive kicking off the MAP Golf Tournament at the Manila Golf and Country Club yesterday. Looking on are Fausto Preysler, former Trade and Industry secretary Juan Santos and PAL president Jimmy Bautista. ROMY HOMILLADA

RP-Malaysia duel looms

A FEARLESS FORECAST BY equestrian observers around the region says the Philippines is the team to beat in the forthcoming Southeast Asian Games, with Malaysia coming in as the country's closest rival.

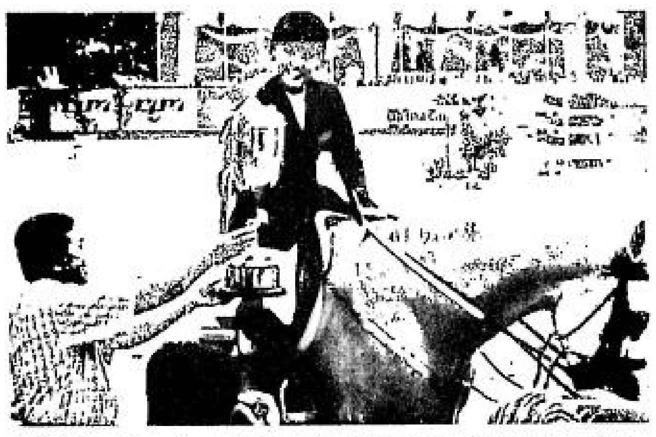
A big point going for the Filipinos is the successful two-month stint in Malaysia by international equestrienne Toni Leviste.

Together with RP equestrian team members Joker Arroyo, 17-year-old daughter of Sen. Joker Arroyo, and Juan Ramon Lanza, Leviste competed in the Southeast Asian League in Malaysia from August to October as part of their SEAG preparation.

Riding under Team Globe Platinum in partnership with Sony Ericsson, Leviste swept the Malaysian Open in August and topped the Premiere Cup in September and the Royal Selangor Cup earlier this month.

Since equestrian is a team sport (between man and horse), RP equestrian team chef de'equip Carissa Coscolluela has also made sure that team horses are well-acclimatized and in top form. They now train at the Globe Platinum Equestrian Park in Lipa City where the weather is cool and where riding facilities are world-class.

Meanwhile, over 30 international riders will compete in the finals of the World Cup Southeast Asian League from Nov. 18 to 20 at the Alabang Country Club.



TONI Leviste, aboard Globe Platinum Leap of Faith receives her Malaysian Open trophy in Kuwang, Malaysia.

Lyceum seeks WNCAA crown

LYCEUM SEEKS ITS SECOND STRAIGHT SENIOR basketball title while Miriam College goes for a double kill as the 36th WNCAA resumes its championship games at the SSC gym today.

Lyceum gained a twice-to-beat edge in the senior Group A finals against newcomer AMA Computer University after sweeping all its 10 elimination round matches.

The Lady Pirates eye their third title in four years starting at 11 a.m.

Game 1 of the Group B best-of-three finals between San Beda College Alabang and St. Scholastica's College begins at 9:30 a.m.

The midget basketball finals duel pitting defending champion Miriam against St. Scholastica's College opens hostilities at 8:30 a.m.

Miriam took Game 1, 45-29, last Oct. 8 but St. Scholastica equalized the following day, 45-41.

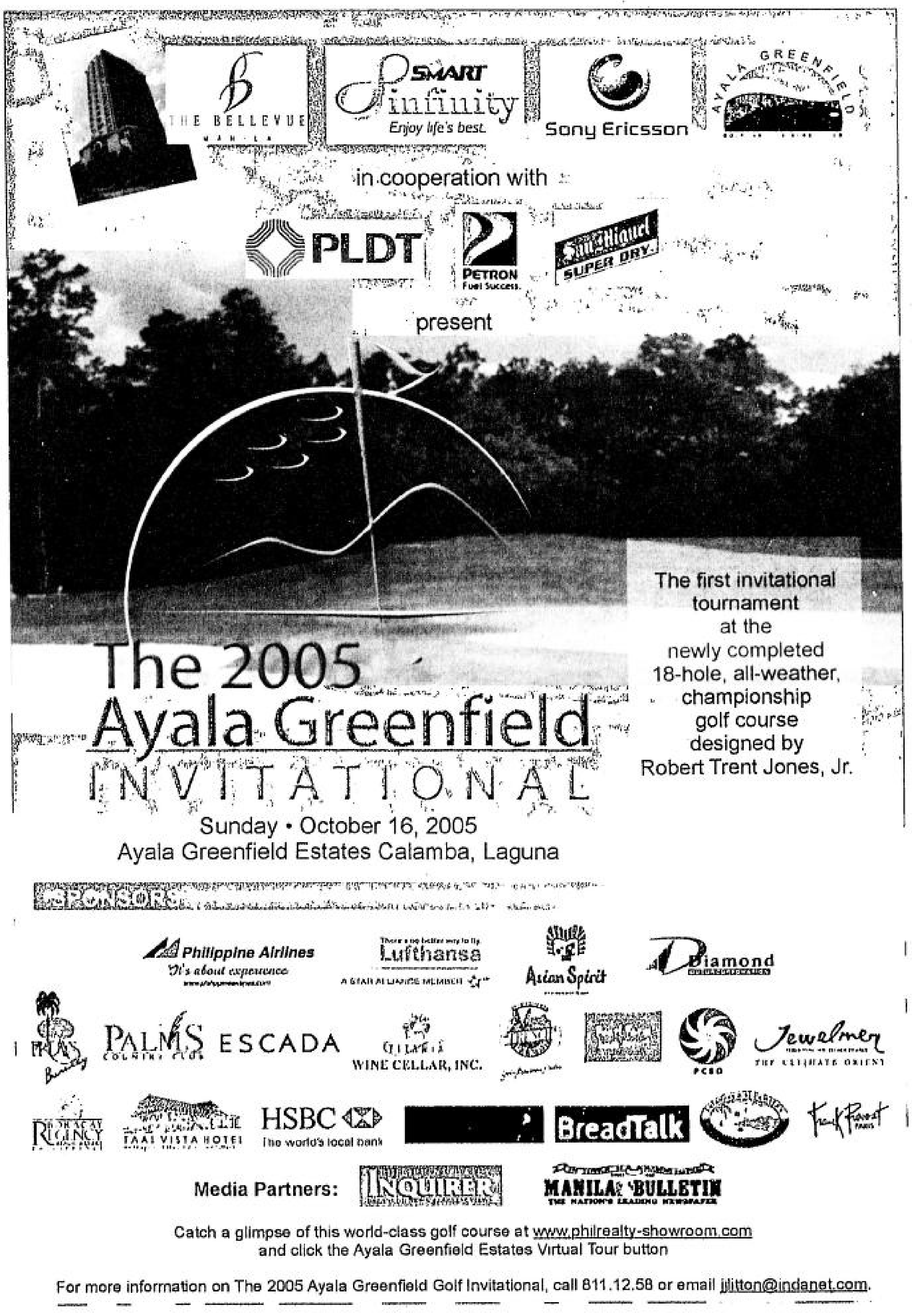
The senior volleyball squad of Miriam likewise seeks the title in senior Group B action against Emilio Aguinaldo College Manila at 3:30 p.m.

Miriam took Game 1, 25-28, 25-14, 25-14.

The 5 p.m. match will feature Lyceum, winner of the past three seasons, facing Rizal Technological U for the Group A title.

The WNCAA 36th season is being supported by Adidas, Penshoppe, Mikasa, Molten, Cherifer vitamin, Rio 106.7 and ABC 5.

GAMES TODAY
(SSC Gym)
Basketball finals
8:30 a.m.—MC vs SSC (midget, Game 3)
9:30 a.m.—SBCA vs SSC (SB, Game 1)
11 a.m.—Lyceum vs AMACU (SA, Game 1)
Volleyball
1 p.m.—SSC vs MC
2 p.m.—SBCA vs DLSZ
3:30 p.m.—EAC vs MC (SB, Game 2 finals)
5 p.m.—Lyceum vs RTU (SA, Game 1 finals)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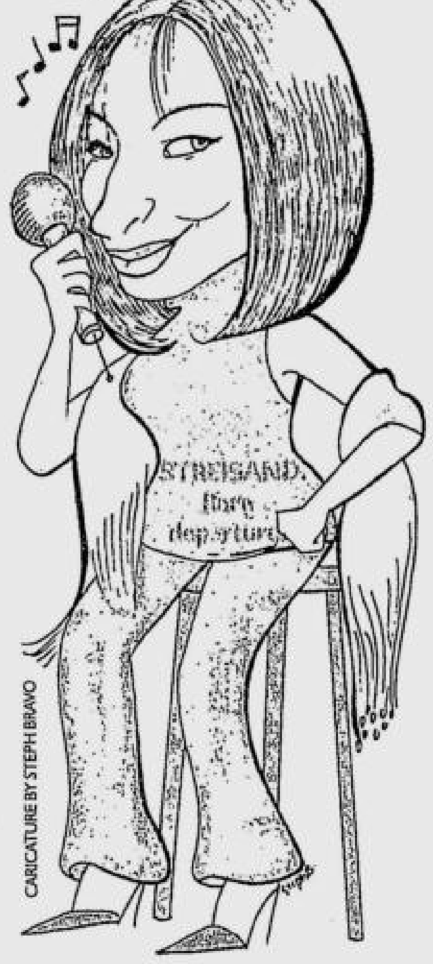
Streisand's new pop album is full of 'Guilty Pleasures'

By Rito P. Asilo


STREISAND
Bare
departure

CARICATURE BY STEPH BRAVO

BARBRA STREISAND TAKES chances in her latest album, "Guilty Pleasures," and comes up with a collection that successfully fuses thematic hymns of the '80s with the synth-oriented sound of contemporary pop music.

In a rare departure from her deliberately calculated, mostly-covers albums in the last decade, Streisand revisits her team-up with Barry Gibb—last heard in 1980's "Guilty"—and waxes a diverse playlist of songs that displays the 63-year-old diva's legendary pipes.

Risks

We've always wondered why, in her 50s and 60s, Streisand had seldom taken musical risks. In 1976's 10-track "Classical Barbra," for example, she challenged herself with a repertoire of classical tunes written by the likes of Joseph Haydn and Claude Debussy, and she emerged unscathed from that experience—even from the snooty purists!

Barbra has always been known to break down barriers on all fronts of the performing arts, so why was she being so careful, when she had nothing else to prove? Online "shrines" list some of her achievements: Her first foray on Broadway, "I Can Get It for You Wholesale," won for her a Tony nomination and a New York Drama Critics trophy. Her first record, "The Barbra Streisand Album," won two Grammys in 1963, including album of the year (which, at the time, made her the youngest artist to have received the award).

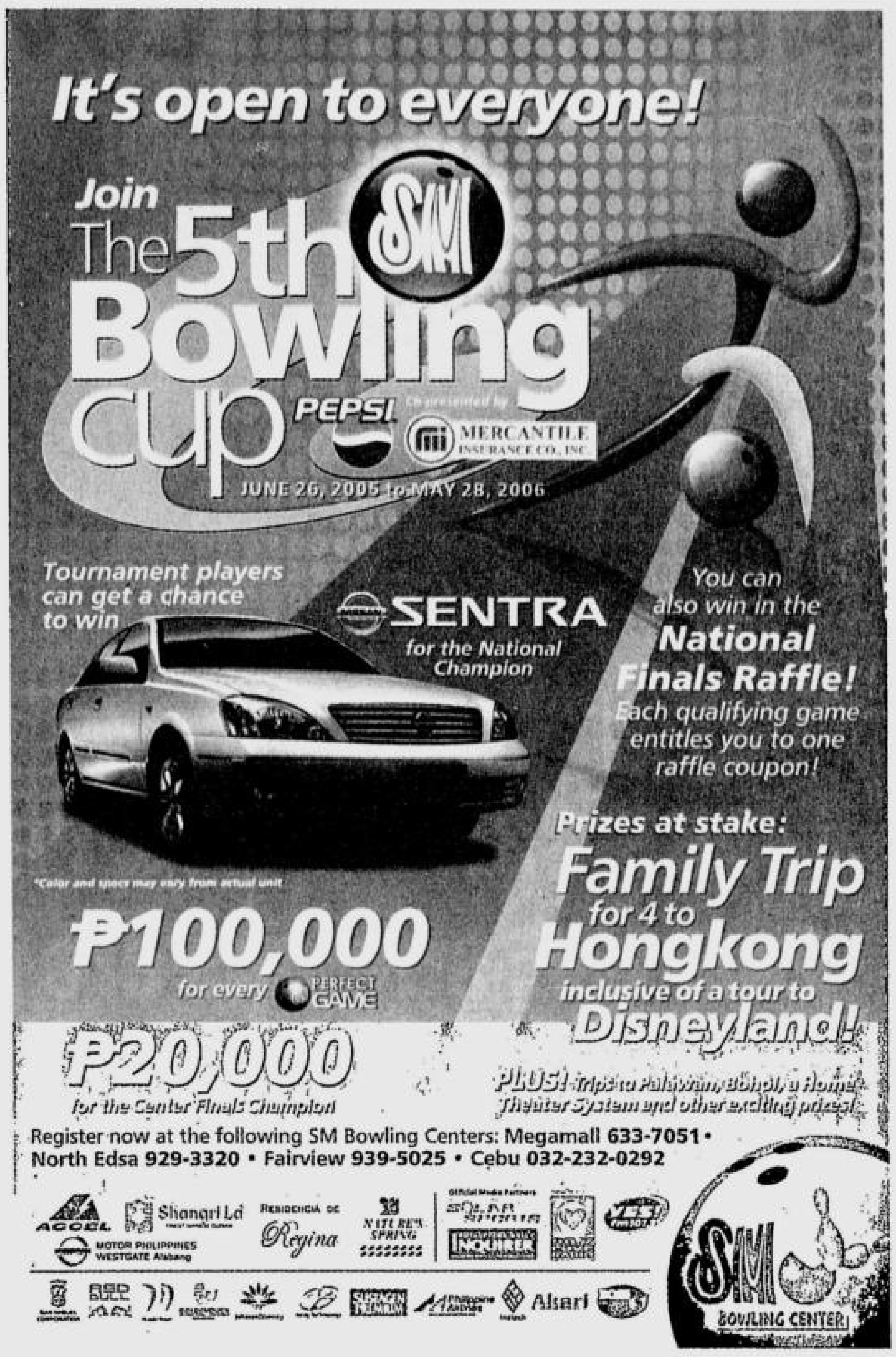
Debut

Her motion picture debut, "Funny Girl," nabbed her an Oscar for best actress. With 1983's "Yentl," she became the first woman *ever* to produce, direct, write and star in a major motion picture.

She was also the first female composer to win an Academy Award (for "Evergreen," from "A Star is Born"). And she has had No. 1 albums in each of the last four decades! Recently, when "Guilty Pleasures" was released, it went straight to No. 5—with a bullet!

In the field of recording, many singers depend on the hit-and-miss process of waxing songs that would either make them famous, *or* mark their next hit. In Streisand's case, it's her voice that usually ensures the chart- and shelf-life of a song.

STREISAND'S/ A2-2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RADCLIFFE, GRINT AND WATSON. Hefty challenges ahead.

Teen savvy in latest 'Harry Potter' installment

By Nestor U. Torre

YOUNG "HARRY POTTER" FANS who've been growing up with the movie series' three adolescent leads should get an empathetic surge when they see how Harry, Emma and Rupert have grown up in the fourth installment of the enormously popular film franchise, "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire."

Daniel is "officially" 15-years-old, Emma 14, and Rupert 16. A good thing, too, because they need all the teen savvy and muscle they can muster to deal with the hefty challenges that J.K.Rowling's new film chapter throws their way.

Competition

In the film, Harry (Daniel Radcliffe) must contend with being mysteriously selected to compete in the prestigious Triwizard Tournament, a thrilling international competition that pits him against older and more experienced students from Hogwarts and two rival European wizarding schools.

In addition, supporters of Harry's nemesis, the evil Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes) send a shock wave of fear throughout the wizard community when their Dark Mark scorches the sky at the Quiddich World Cup, signaling Voldemort's return to power.

But, for Harry, that isn't the only news that's causing him anxiety—he has yet to find a date for Hogwart's Yule Ball dance!

Of course, series fans hope that Rowling will eventually pair up Harry and Emma, because they've been observing that their heretofore "buddy" relationship could transmute itself into a sweetly inspiring teen romance.

This, despite the fact that, in "Goblet of Fire," Harry gets a big crush on the exotic Cho Chang. The role is played by a first-time actress (she's never performed before, not even in a school play)—Katie Leung, who responded to an open casting call and found herself besting 5,000 other young hopefuls for the coveted role!

Highlight

Another highlight of "Goblet of Fire" is Lord Voldemort's first appearance in full human form in the "Harry Potter" film series. Ralph Fiennes, who plays Voldemort, is joined by Brendan Gleeson as Mad-Eye Moody, Hogwarts' new Defense Against the Dark Arts professor, and Miranda Richardson as muckraking journalist, Rita Skeeter.

With all of the popularity they've gained from appearing in the "Harry Potter" movies through the years, Daniel Radcliffe and Emma Watson have positioned themselves as two of the most promising teen talents in the movies.

Characters

To be sure, the characters they play in the Harry Potter films tend to be less complicated and troubled than other teen roles, so they might have a harder time connecting with teen viewers.

But, they're good actors, so they should be able to dig deeper and come up with more textured and realistic aspects of themselves to do justice to the more angst-ridden teen roles they'll be playing after the Harry Potter series shall have run its course.

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'Aspects of Love'

MONTAGE

FROM NOV. 4 TO DEC. 3, THE New Voice Company is staging Andrew Lloyd Webber's acclaimed musical, "Aspects of Love," at the Republic of Malate Theater.

The hit show stars Monique Wilson and Jake Macapagal, with Roselyn Perez, Leo Rialp, Lynn Sherman, Rito Asilo and Topper Fabregas.Call 896-6695.

NGC on ABC-5

Starting Oct. 16, Infocamp will telecast the National Geographic Channel's "Earthpulse" series on ABC-5 from 12:30 to 1 p.m. every Sunday. The 13-part series will be dubbed in Filipino.

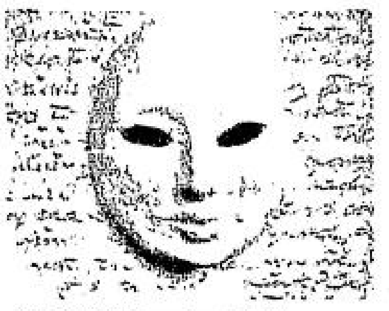
JOSEPHINE Falejo and Carlo Zurbito in Rene Villanueva's "May Isang Sundalo."

'Tatlong Villanueva'

'Tatlong Villanueva," a showcase of three plays by Rene O. Villanueva, is being staged until Oct. 29 by Teatro Muntinlaya at the Sta. Ana Arts Center, Plaza Hugo, Sta. Ana, Manila.

The plays are "Asawa," "Kaaway sa Sulod" and "May Isang Sundalo." Call. 0920 903-5457.

CAST OF WEBBER MUSICAL. (Clockwise from top left) Lynn Sherman, Rito Asilo, Jake Macapagal, Topper Fabregas, Roselyn Perez, Leo Rialp, Crystal Kane, Monique Wilson and Nikki Ventosa.


CASTRO'S mask exhibit.

'Bal Masque'

Theater actor Miguel Castro is exhibiting his Venetian-style masks in mixed media starting Oct. 19 at Nicotina Garden Pavilion, Roxas blvd. Service road, Pasay. Opening the exhibit is a mini-fashion show by 10 members of the Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines. Call. 721-0801.

Movies on TV

On HBO, Oct. 15 at 7:45 a.m., "Lady Jane." 5 p.m., "Miss Lettie and Me." Oct. 16 at 4 p.m., "The Mambo Kings." Oct. 17 at 2:45 p.m., "I'll Be There."

On Cinemax, Oct. 15 at 4 p.m., "Introducing Dorothy Dandridge." Oct. 16 at 8 a.m., "Hollywood Confidential." Oct. 17 at 2:45 p.m., "Fool for Love." 6 p.m., "Flashdance."

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Upbeat prognosis for diverse film scene

By Nestor U. Torre

FINALLY, AFTER A COUPLE OF FALSE STARTS, the 2005 Cinemanila Film Festival unreeled last Oct. 12 at SM and Robinsons Cinemas in Manila and selected Metro Manila theaters. Almost a hundred foreign and local movies will be screened, including 17 films competing for the Lino Brocka award, and 10 local films vying for best digital feature. Call (632) 405-0135, or access www.cinemanila.com.ph.

Sleeper hit

On the mainstream film scene, the sleeper hit is "The 40-Year-Old Virgin," starring new comic sensation, Steve Carell. He plays a regular guy who's had one too many missed opportunities at sex, until he eventually gave up trying. The film shows how he finally makes up for lost time in the hay.

For her part, Diane Keaton is generating Oscar buzz with her role in the ensemble comedy, "The Family Stone." She plays the mother of Dermot Mulroney's character. He brings his girlfriend (Sarah Jessica Parker) home for the holidays, but she fails to impress her prospective in-laws.

This prompts Parker's character to turn to her sister (Claire Danes) for help. But, the plan goes awry when Danes' presence adds to the affianced couple's holiday woes.

Meanwhile, the new sports film, "Goal!," stars up-and-coming Latino actor Kuno Becker and Alessandro Nivola in a triumph-of-the-human-spirit drama set in the world of soccer. International football stars like David Beckham, Raul and Newcastle captain Alan Shearer also appear in the movie.

Gifted

Becker plays a gifted soccer player who succeeds despite his impoverished background, crunching blows from teammates, injuries and temptations.

On local film screens, the current crowd-pleaser is Star Cinema's "Dubai," starring Aga Muhlach. The film is doing well at the box office, debunking naysayers' dark prognosis for the Filipino movies industry, and affirming studio head Malou Santos' upbeat view of local films' current and future prospects.

While others moan that the industry is dying—or even dead—Malou believes that all it needs is a shot in the arm coming from well-conceptualized projects that earn the viewing public's support—like "Dubai."

Streisand's . . .

From page A2-1

"Guilty Pleasures" showcases a musical montage of mainstream-pop ballads, and the singer's distinctive and instinctive way of interpreting them. Some of these tracks may verge on schmaltz, but with Streisand's interpretive skills, they take on deeper meanings.

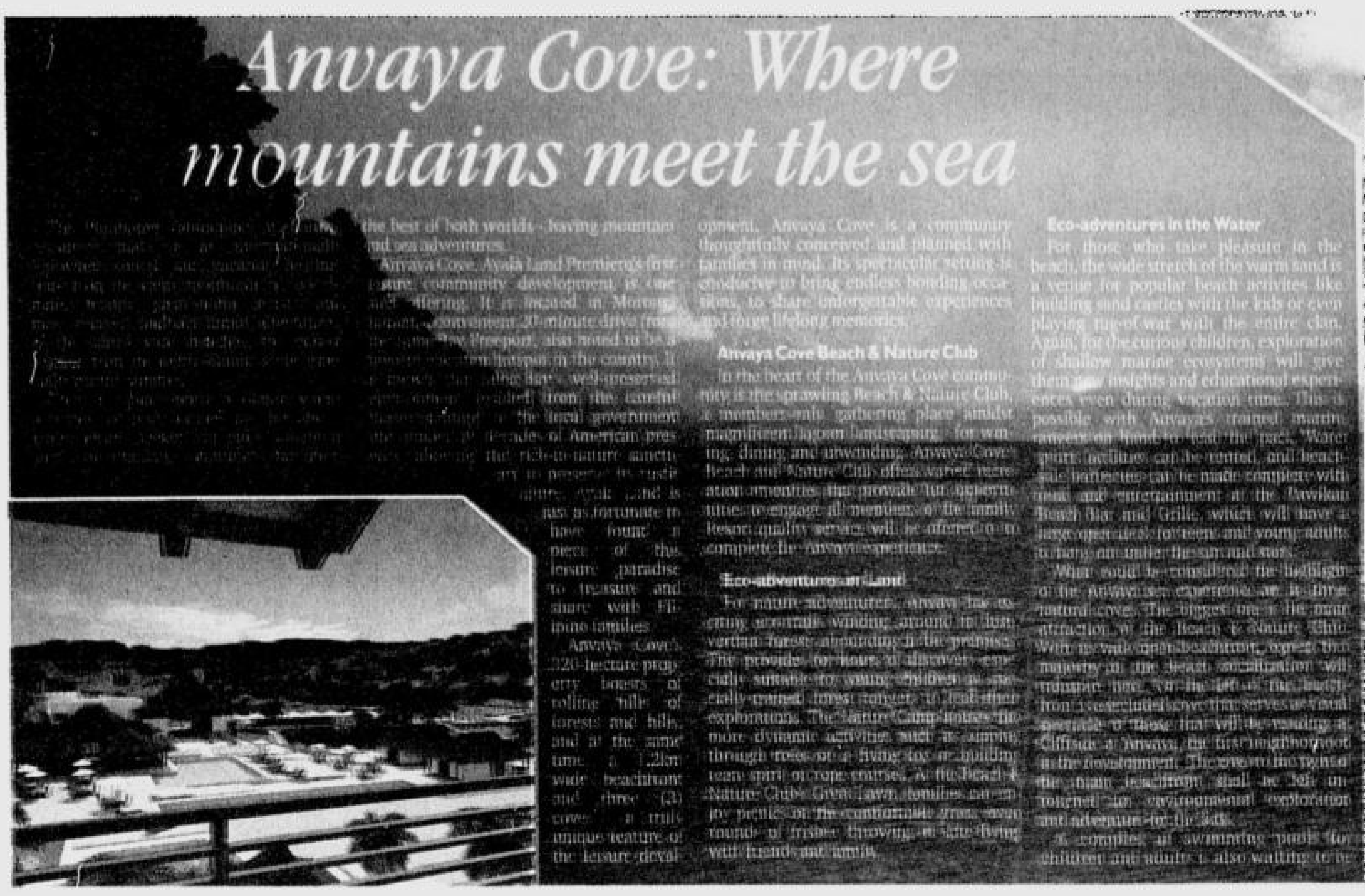
There are hints of the Bee Gees' "Tragedy" in the disco-inspired "Night of My Life," soft touches of rock in "Strangers in a Strange Land," and a great dose of Jacobean melancholy in her cover of "(Our Love) Don't Throw It All Away"—one of the biggest hit songs of heartthrob Andy Gibb, Barry's younger brother, who died in 1988 from myocarditis at the age of 30. When Gibb joins Streisand in the song, the duo delivers a heart-tugging rendition that allows the song to transcend its lyrics' bugglegum sugarcoating.

Sugar and spice

The individual styles of Barbra and Barry are as different as sugar and spice, but they create beautiful music together and blend in vocal synergy ("Above the Law," "Come Together").

It is, however, Streisand's beautiful, lark-like voice that makes this 11-track album work best. Top picks: "Letting Go," "Hideaway," "Golden Dawn" and "(Our Love) Don't Throw It All Away."

That's not to say, though, that you won't enjoy listening to the other tunes in the collection, which is pleasantly filled with guilty musical pleasures.



Anvaya Cove: Where mountains meet the sea

[illegible]

the best of both worlds - having mountain and sea adventures.

Anvaya Cove, Ayala Land Premier's first leisure community development, is one such offering. It is located in Morong, Bataan, a convenient 20-minute drive from the Subic Bay Freeport, also noted to be a [illegible] hotspot in the country. It [illegible] well-preserved [illegible] resulted from the careful [illegible] the local government [illegible] decades of American presence [illegible] the rich-in-nature sanctuary [illegible] Ayala Land is just as fortunate to have found a piece of this leisure paradise to treasure and share with Filipino families.

Anvaya Cove's 320-hectare property boasts of rolling hills of forests and hills, and at the same time a 1.2km wide beachfront and three (3) coves – a truly unique feature of the leisure development. Anvaya Cove is a community thoughtfully conceived and planned with families in mind. Its spectacular setting is conducive to bring endless bonding occasions, to share unforgettable experiences and forge lifelong memories.

Anvaya Cove Beach & Nature Club

In the heart of the Anvaya Cove community is the sprawling Beach & Nature Club, a members-only gathering place amidst magnificent lagoon landscaping for wining, dining and unwinding. Anvaya Cove Beach and Nature Club offers varied recreation amenities that provide fun opportunities to engage all members of the family. Resort quality service will be offered to complete the Anvaya experience.

Eco-adventures in Land

For nature adventurers, Anvaya has [illegible] winding around its [illegible] forests abounding in the premises. [illegible] children [illegible] forest [illegible] explorations. The Nature Camp [illegible] more dynamic activities such as [illegible] through [illegible] or building team spirit on rope courses. At the Beach & Nature Club's Great Lawn, families can enjoy picnics on the [illegible] grass [illegible] rounds of frisbee throwing [illegible] with friends and family.

Eco-adventures in the Water

For those who take pleasure in the beach, the wide stretch of the warm sand is a venue for popular beach activites like building sand castles with the kids or even playing tug-of-war with the entire clan. Again, for the curious children, exploration of shallow marine ecosystems will give them new insights and educational experiences even during vacation time. This is possible with Anvaya's trained marine [illegible] on hand to lead the pack. Water sports facilities can be rented, and beachside barbecues can be made complete with food and entertainment at the Pawikan Beach Bar and Grille, which will have a large open deck for teens and young adults to hang out under the sun and stars.

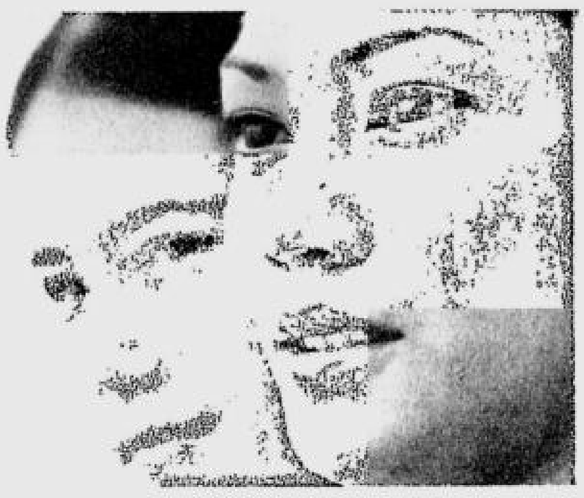
What could be considered the highlight of the Anvaya [illegible] experience are its three natural coves. The biggest one is the main attraction of the Beach & Nature Club. [illegible] Cliffside at Anvaya, the first neighborhood in the development. [illegible] the main beachfront shall be left untouched for environmental exploration and adventure for the kids.

A complex of swimming pools for children and adults is also waiting to be enjoyed at the beach and nature club. There will be a 25 meter lapping pool, and a kiddie pool. In addition to this, two-level clustered pools for recreation and lounging are part of the plan. Nearby, the lagoon recreational area provides chances for more relaxed water activities such as paddling or fishing. The Great Lawn next to it allows the family to play ball and fly kites. Wedding receptions can likewise be held at this open space.

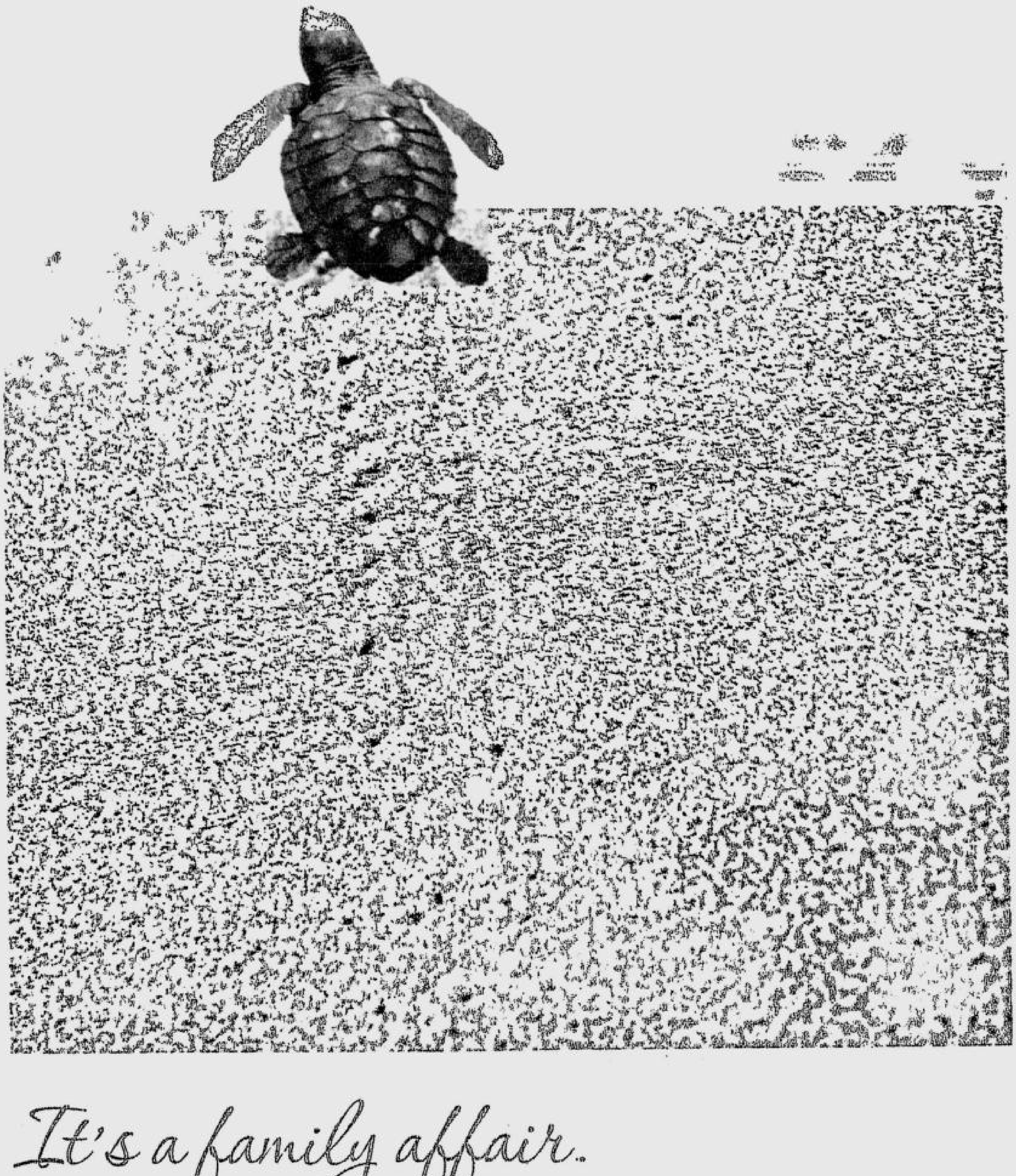
Owning a piece of Anvaya Cove

Truly, Ayala Land Premier is offering a unique prospect nowhere to be found in the market for leisure communities today. A prerequisite to owning a slice of this enclave is a membership in the Beach & Nature Club. There is also an option to extend this lifestyle all year round by purchasing a lot in the equally exclusive neighborhoods right within Anvaya Cove.

To know about Anvaya Cove, visit the Greenbelt showroomat Greenbelt 2 Garden showroom near Italianni's and Segafredo or call 728-7000 or 892-3333, e-mail anvayacove@ayalaland.com.ph or visit www.anvayacove.com .



When I saw my daughter's eyes widen at the sight of the baby pawikan, I realized that life's biggest event was in the moment! That look was priceless and I was changed forever.



Experiences made extraordinary. Anvaya Cove is a sanctuary to weary city folks as it is to some animals unique to this area. Annually, *pawikan* hatchlings find their way back to the shore while migrating Mallard ducks fly inland to seek respite from the cold season.

Anvaya Cove draws your attention to things that truly matter — giving time for recreation, reflection and relaxation.

In the heart of this enviable, exclusive leisure community is the Anvaya Cove Beach and Nature Club — a members-only gathering place amidst spectacular lagoon landscaping — for wining, dining and unwinding. Where the recreational amenities provide opportunities for bonding and unique experiences that all family members can share.

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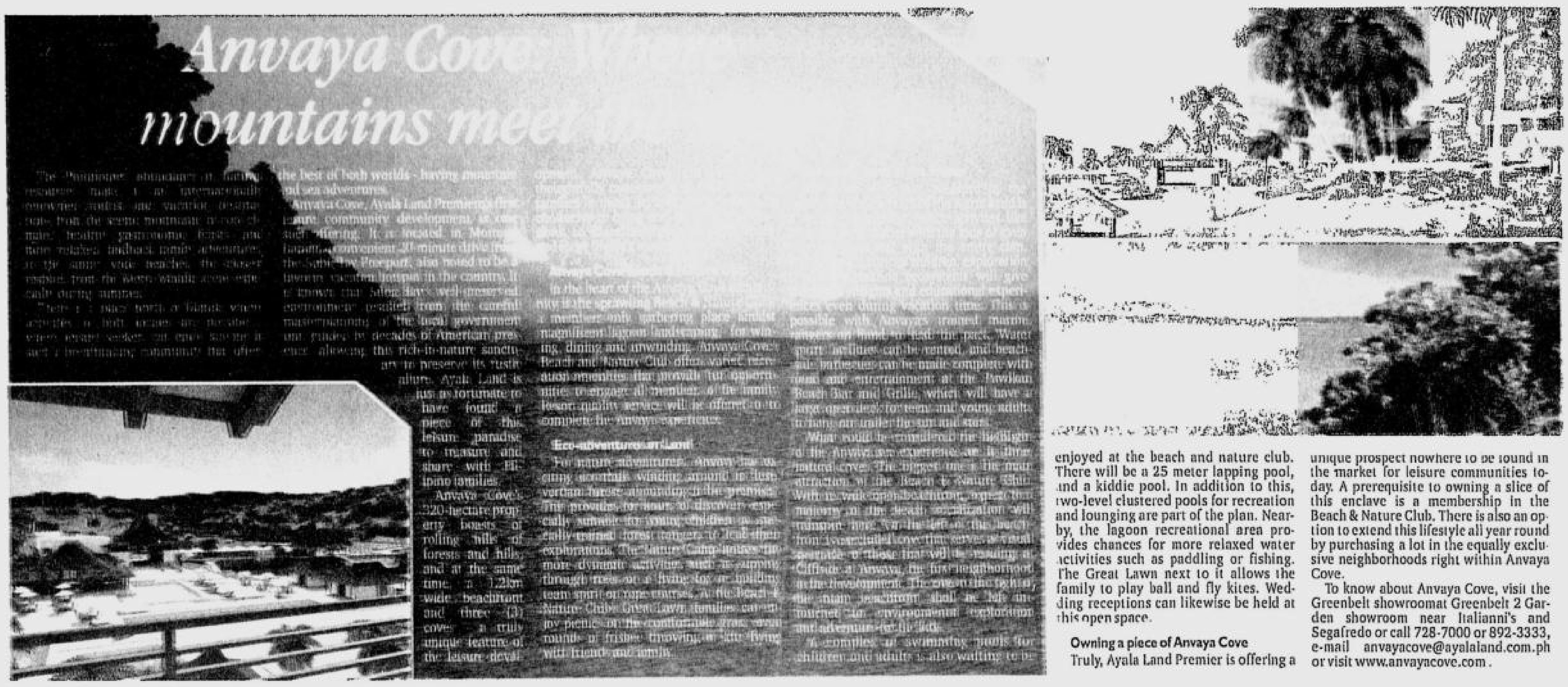

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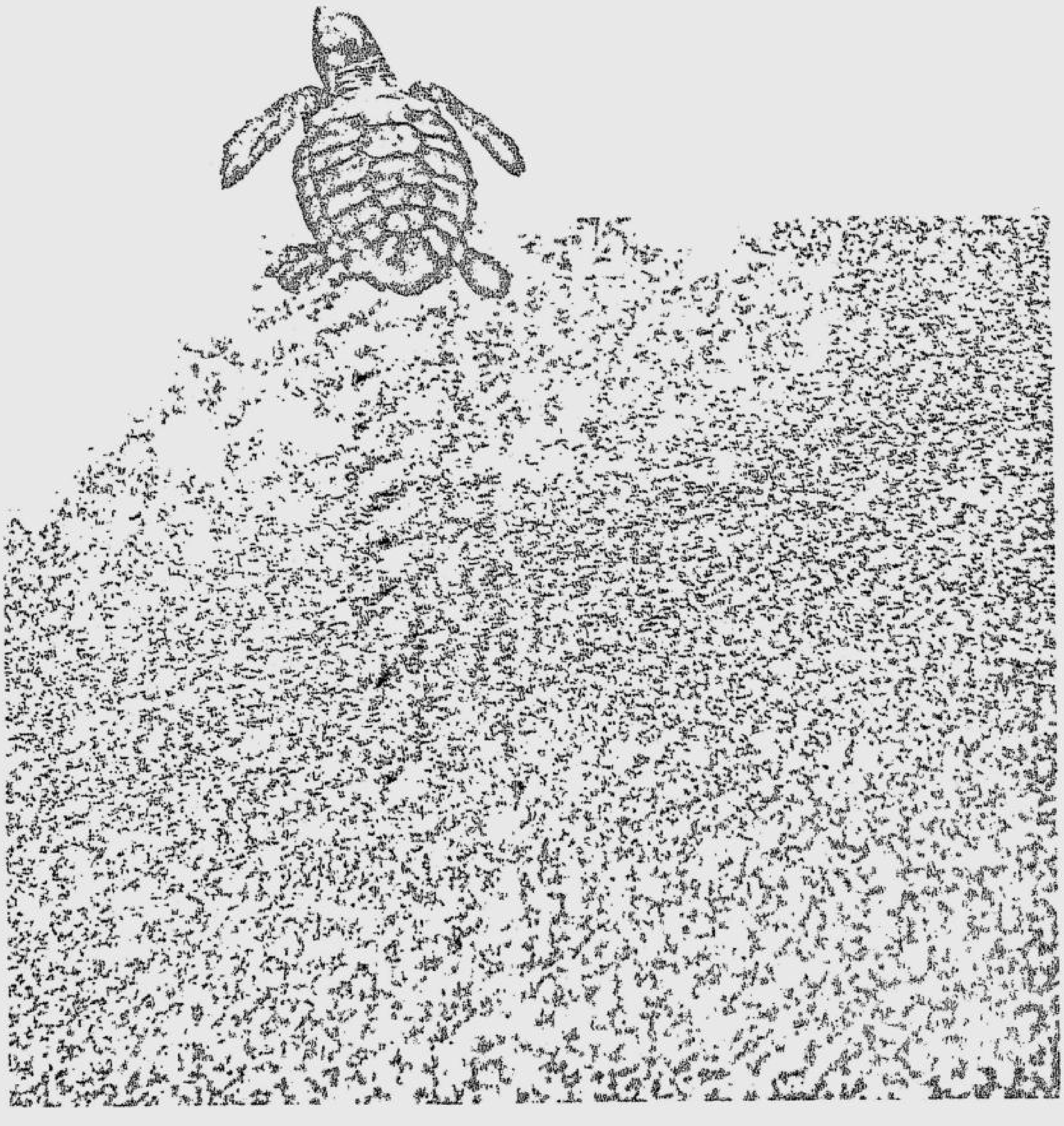

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By Andy Bais

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CBCP executive director, Monsignor Hernando M. Coronel, and Office on Women executive secretary Dr. Zenaida Rotea asked acclaimed theater artist Nestor U. Torre to write and direct "'Be Not Afraid'—Pope John Paul II,'" a touring and fundraising production, which will have its invitational gala performance on Nov. 8 at the Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life."

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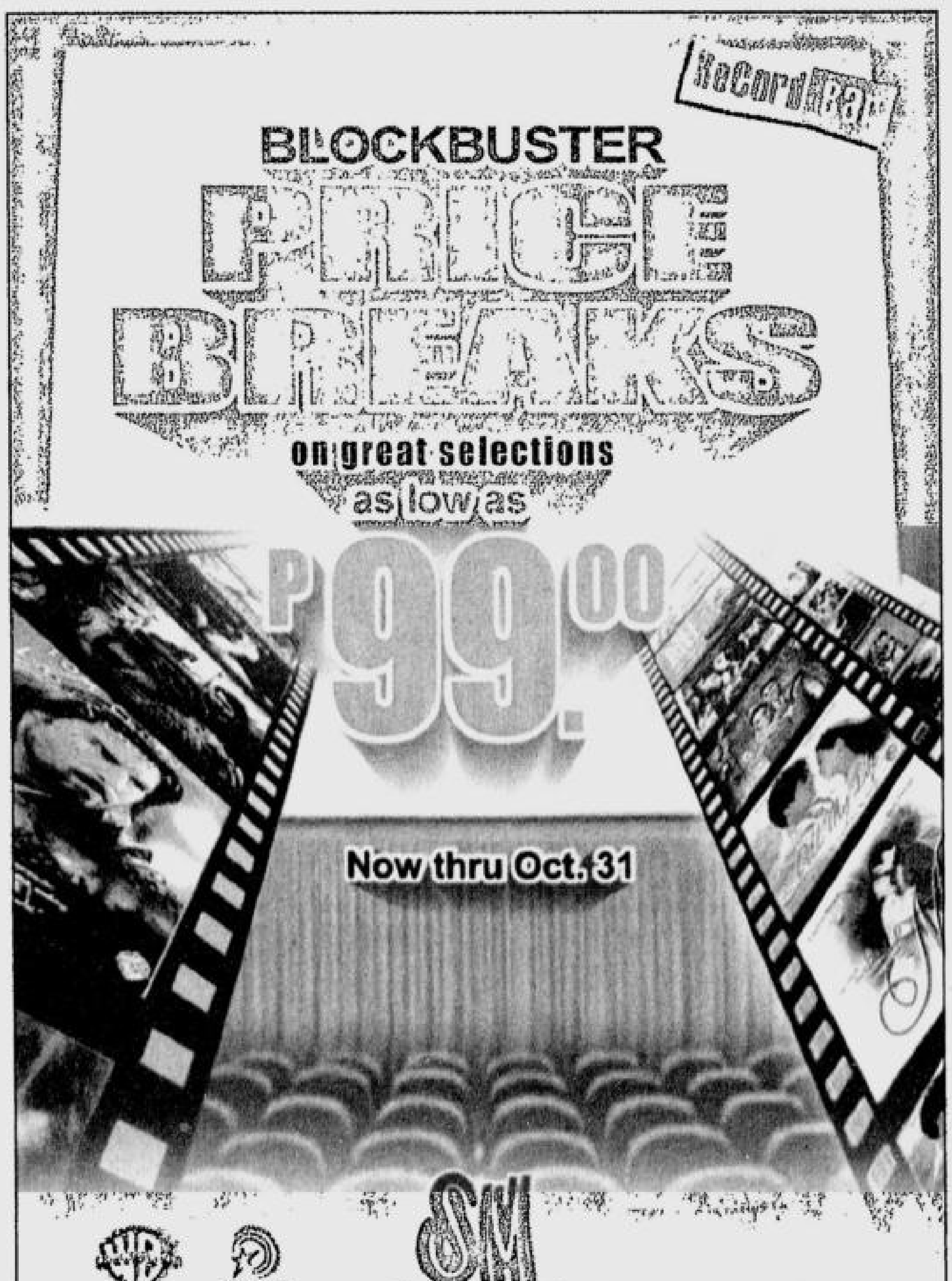

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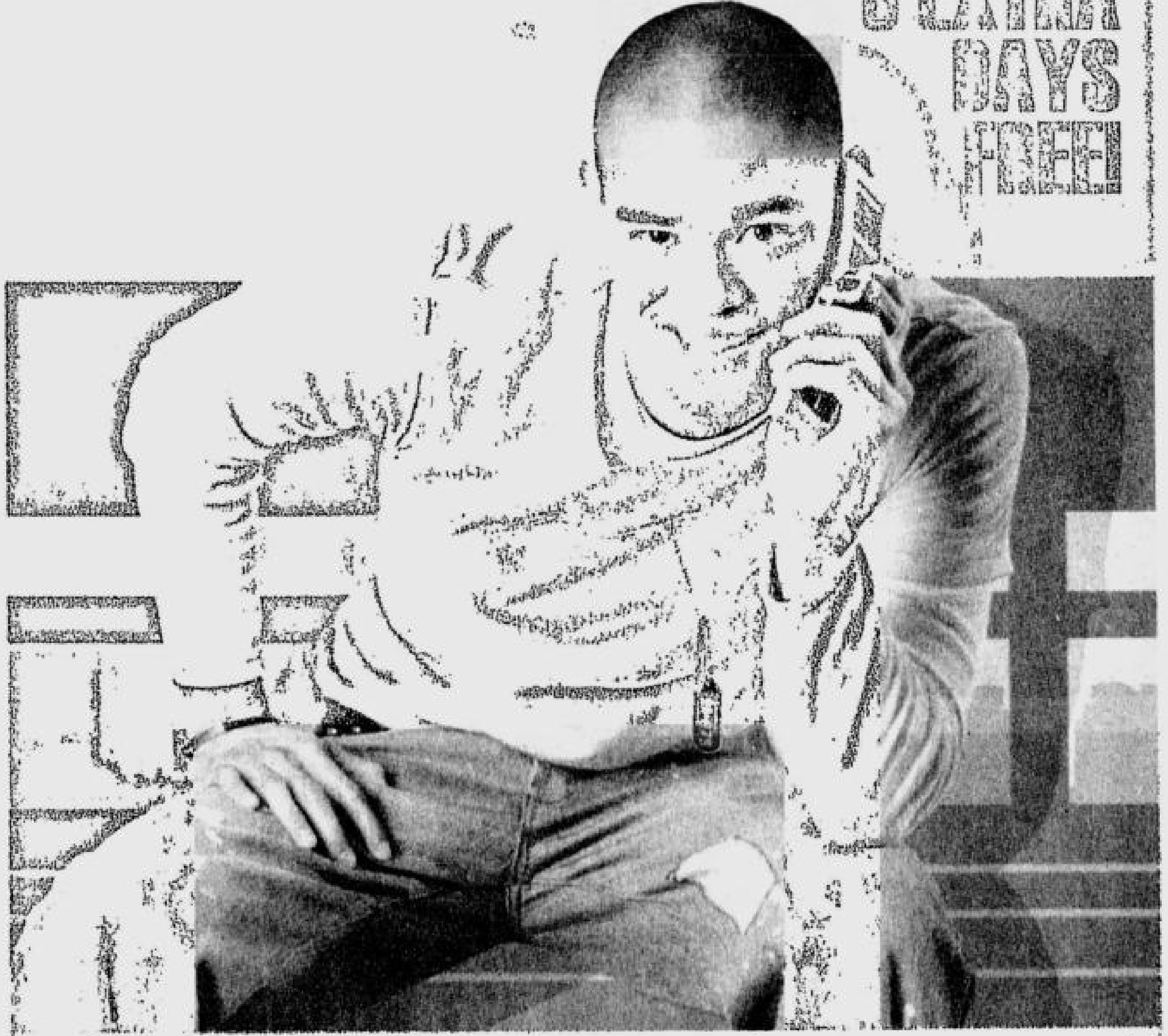

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No new revelations in Barbie's singles collection

By Noelani Torre

ON BARBIE ALMALBIS' WEBSITE, www.barbiealmalbis.com, we are told that "the celestial child has decided to leave her cradle." If you know anything about the local music scene, you'll realize that this refers to the singer/songwriter's decision to leave her eponymously named band, Barbie's Cradle, earlier this year.

This is the second group she's split from—the first being Hungry Young Poets—but this time, she's announced that this is because she plans to pursue a solo career. (The break-up, by the way, was [illegible]id to be amicable, so the[illegible]nothing to gossip about there.) And the first move she's made toward pursuing that career has been to release a compilation of her past singles.

Unexpected

You must admit that this is a bit unexpected. After all, one would think that she'd come up with an album of new material first.

Nevertheless, "Barbie: The Singles" is what we get. Perhaps this is meant to be a retrospective, but if so, it would be presumptuous, since she's only released four albums thus far.

Still, "The Singles" does offer a couple of bonuses. There's a VCD with 12 Barbie's Cradle music videos, and we get to listen to her newest (and only) solo single, "Just a Smile." Not that it's something you haven't heard before, inasmuch as it also happens to be the new Close-Up jingle.

This collection is also useful because it allows us to trace Barbie's growth as an artist. The tracks are arranged chronologically, with the Hungry Young Poets' "Torpe" and "Firewoman" heading the list.

Here, we can see Barbie moving closer and closer towards the spiritual, particularly in the songs from BC's last album, "Playing in the Fields." In the song "All I Need," for example, she sings, "Inside of my heart is an army of angels."

She doesn't ram her beliefs down your throat, however, and she still sings about the usual things—love, childhood, and the little tragedies of life.

Radio

Still, if you've been listening to the radio for the past five years, this is something you already know. So, you really can't expect new revelations about her music in "The Singles," particularly since she's never changed the way she does things.

If you happen to be a new Barbie fan, however, this album will definitely work for you. All 18 of the songs are among the best that she's produced. It also includes two covers of Ryan Cayabyab and Hotdog songs.

Barbie's music has always been charming and dreamy, and though she has lost her earlier intriguing edge, she hasn't lost her aural appeal. It will be interesting to see what she does when she releases her first solo album.

She's played the ingénue role for so long now (with a few exceptions here and there) that we wonder if the phrase "leaving the cradle" also means that we're going to hear a more grown-up Barbie in the future.

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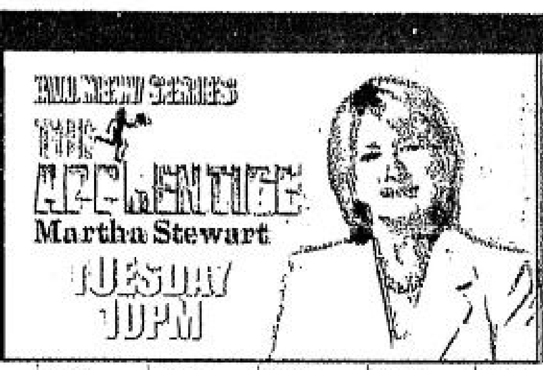

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CNN	World Business This Week	World News	People In The News	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	International Correspondents	World News	Spark	World News	The Daily Show John Stewart Global Edition	World News	World Sport	World News	Talk Asia	World News	Diplomatic License
ESPN												Sportscenter Asia							
Solar Sports		ATP Swedish Open '05							NBA PreSeason Game				Sports Desk	2005 Phil 9-Ball Open				In This Corner	
Sports Plus	Administaff Small Business Classic Day 1				This Is The PGA Tour		Golf International B	US OPEN 2005 Men's Semifinal 2				UFC Onslaught Primer	Inside the PGA	Porsche Rnd 11	Porsche Rnd 12	Michelin Championship at Las Vegas Day2			
Cinemax				Introducing Dorothy Dandridge A True Story				Threshold			I Accuse			Simone				Glass Trap (10:55PM)	
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	Napoleon				Napoleon				Hawking				The Temptations			The Temptations		
Disney Channel	Recess	Totally Spies		Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch	Totally Spies	Mr. Bean	Phil Of The Future	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr. Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Phil Of The Future	Even Stevens	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Human Discovery						Hour China		Wild Discovery				Guilty Or Innocent				Extreme Discovery	
National Geographic		China Special				Penguin Death Zone		Creature Feature				Mystery Of The Dakar		Leopard Seals		Big Bite Nite			
Cartoon Network		Police Academy	The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	The Road Runner Show	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Winx Club	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Samurai Jack	Abrafaxe Under The Black Flag			Cartoon Cartoon Show	Crush Gear Nitro	The Gransazers	Justice League	Stealth 2021 (11:15PM)	Aqua Teen Hunger Force
Nickelodeon	1, 2, 3	Unfabulous	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	Drake & Josh	Chalkzone	Avatar: The Last Airbender	Danny Phantom	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Four Eyes	Cow At The Moo-vies	Girls In Love	The Amanda Show	My Dad The Rock Star	Four Eyes	The Wild Thornberrys	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Carol Duvall	Homes That Made Hollywood		Radical Sabbatical	Road & Track	Genuine Article	Food Fight	Date Plate	Emeril Live		Nigella Bites	How Do I Look		NY Fashion Week	Look For Less	My Crazy Life 101		Fashion Trance	
Star World		The Collector		Miami Vice		Monk		John Doe		Chronicles: News From The Edge		TNA Xplosion		Ghost Hunters		Enterprise		Kumara At 42	Less Than Perfect
AXN		Double Team				AXN Shakedown		30 Seconds To Fame	E Buzz	Gamemax	Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	The Amazing Race Family Edition		Las Vegas		House		The Shield	
JackTV		Worst Case Scenario		Cheat	Filter	Samurai Jack	X-Men	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman	WWE Bottomline		Wwe Raw				South Park	The Man Show	Chappelle's Show	Beat The Geeks
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HBO			The Perfect Score			Miss Lettie And Me			Coming To America				The Big Preview: Wallace & Gromit, The Curse Of The Were-Rabbit	Win A Date With Ted Hamilton!			Deadwood 09 No Other Sons Or Daughters (10:40PM)		Wolf (11:40PM)
Star Movies				Nature Unleashed: Earthquake			Powder (5:35 PM)				Confessions Of A Teenage Drama Queen (7:25 PM)			The Clown Payday			The River Wild (10:45PM)		
Cinema One	Ang Tanging Ina				Spirit Warriors				My Movie				Ika-13 Kapitulo				Aishite Imasu		
EWTN	Voices On Virtue	Angelus (3:15 PM)	The Beatitudes	Story Keepers	Faith Factory C	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Life Is Worth Living	Catholic Compass		The World Over		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	A Christian Pilgrimage To Jordan	Choices We Face	Crisis In Culture	Life on The Rock Encore	

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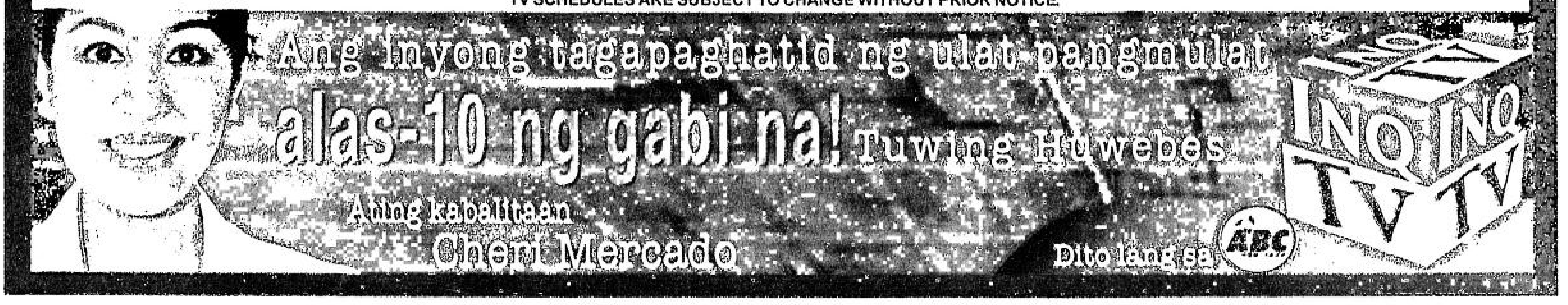
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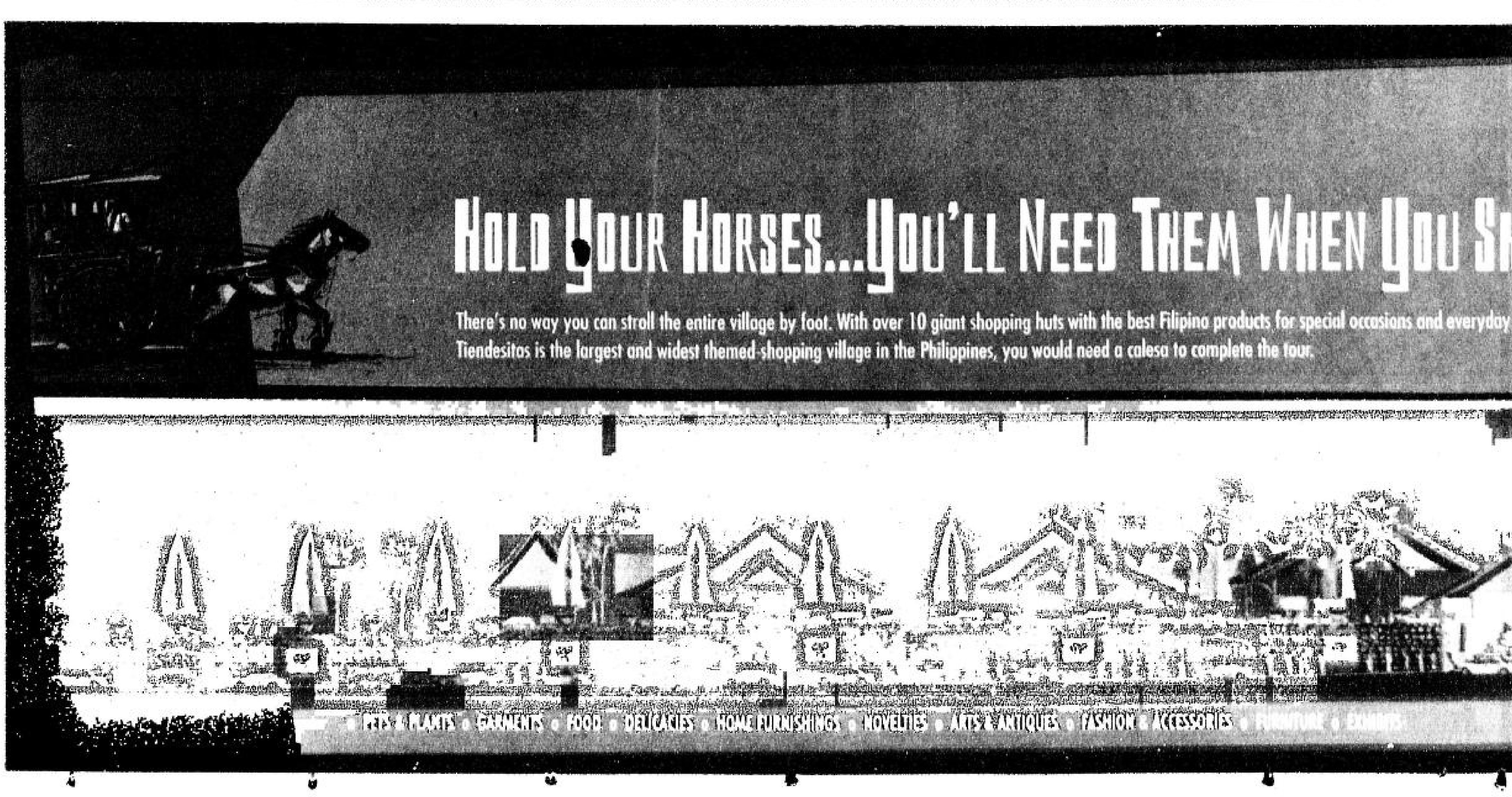
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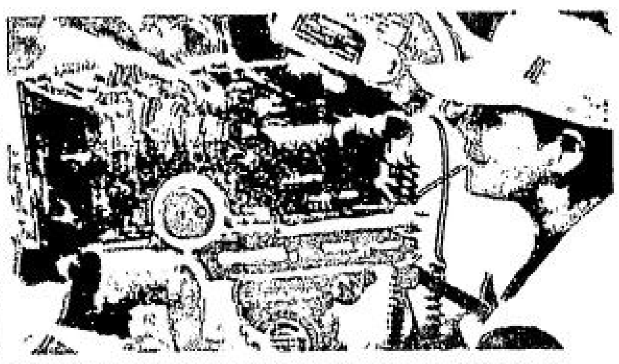
Marissa Floirendo, ace underwater cinematographer

By Ronald G. Mangubat


FLOIRENDO. Doubly difficult to shoot in the water.

MARISSA at work in her element.

MARISSA FLOIRENDO COMES from a family of astute businessmen, but instead of following her siblings' business careers, she preferred to pursue an artistic life.

In 1988, during a break from a filmmaking course in New York, her brother convinced her to learn scuba diving. Little did she know that that the experience would open doors to an entirely different world. She recalls: "While macho divers carried spear guns, I brought a video camera. That started it!"

Respected

Today, Marissa is one of the most respected underwater cinematographers in the country. Some enthusiasts consider her a pioneer of sorts—a title she's not comfortable with. "I'm sure there have been others who came before me," she says.

It took us sometime to set an appointment with Ms Floirendo, who was busy shooting a film.

But, she sat with us for three hours and talked about the various passions of her life: scuba diving, cinematography and traveling.

Our Q and A with Marissa:

How did you enter the local show biz scene?

While I was learning to scuba dive, somebody said: 'If you're interested in films, why don't you meet Peque Gallaga?' So, I apprenticed for Peque. At the time, he was doing a film where the character of Alma Moreno was supposed to be drowning, and they needed an underwater shot. That's how it started.

But, you became popular with Marilou Diaz-Abaya's "Muro-Ami"...

Yes, because of the publicity surrounding the movie.

What do you recall about that film?

It took us a month and a half to shoot. Marilou dived with us for the underwater scenes. It was a difficult shoot, but we were satisfied with the results.

If it's hard to shoot on land, it's doubly difficult to shoot underwater. You're always at the mercy of the elements. You can't control the weather, the tide, and the clarity of the water.

You've also done underwater photography for "Probe," right?

Yes. Che Che Lazaro was such a nice person. We shot her with sharks at Tubataha, but we made it a point to position her in such a way that she wouldn't disturb the sharks.

Are you not afraid of sharks?

I used to—but, not so much now.

What makes underwater cinematography fascinating?

Shooting underwater possesses a magical quality. People move slower, their hair moves in a different way. When you're shooting a person's face, even the skin looks different.

Gravity

You defy gravity, so people seem younger. In terms of lighting, it basically comes from above, so when it hits the surface, it sends out shafts of light.

What are the best diving sites in the country?

It depends on what you're looking for. Anilao is one of the most underrated places in the world. People rave about diving sites in Thailand, but they are nothing compared to Anilao!

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NINA. More relaxed now—on and off stage.

Nina finds great joy in making her audience happy

By Jocelyn Valle

NINA WAS NURSING a nasty cold when we recently caught up with her at the performer's lounge of Bagaberde in Pasig. Just an hour and a half ago, she was belting out tunes like "Amazing Grace" and "Bridges" onstage *sans* any hint of ill health.

"I make it a point to give 110 percent of myself whenever I perform, *kahit masakit*," she smiled. "It helps that I now feel more relaxed on and off stage. It comes with experience and the acceptance that I have come this far."

Mentor

Nina, born Marifil Niña Giraldo on Nov. 1, 1980, started singing at an early age, with dad Filbert, former member of the Bayanihan Boys' Choir, as her mentor.

Nina has paid her dues in singing contests like "Bulilit Jamboree" on the old noontime show, "Lunch Date," and "Tanghalan ng Kampeon."

A few years ago, Nina submitted a demo tape to Warner Music, whose executives were said to have fallen with love with her version of "Foolish Heart." Anonymity didn't last long, as Nina soon found herself face to face with her new and influential fans.

NINA/ A3-4

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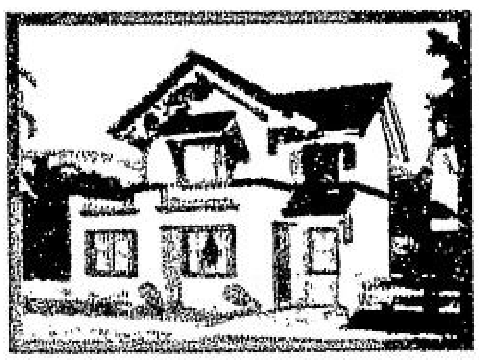
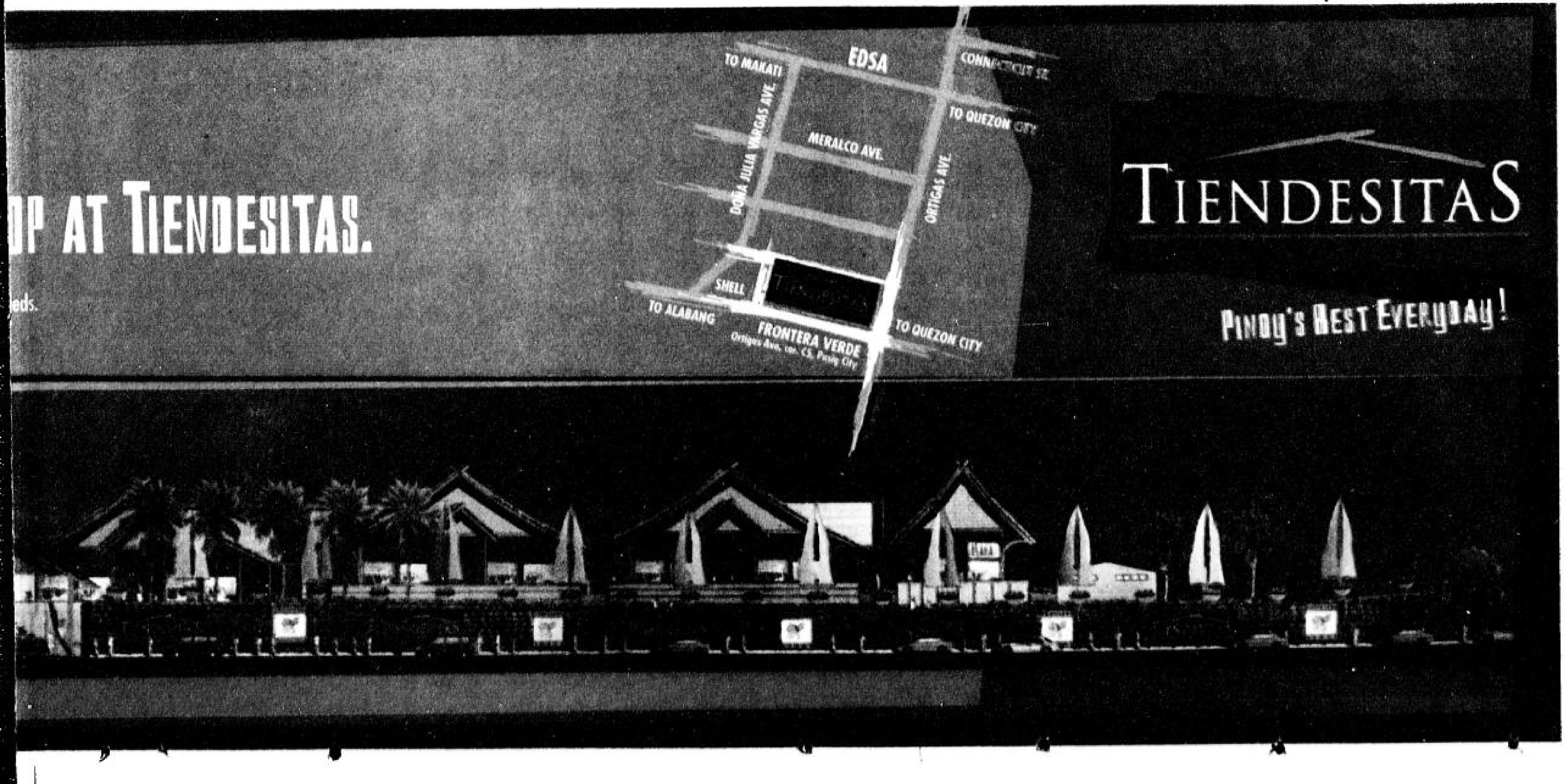
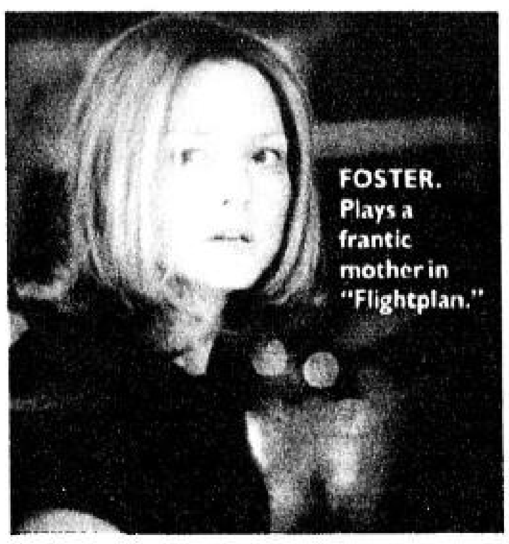

Country American Cherry
132 sqm. usable floor area



Foster, Keaton in highly anticipated features

By Nestor U. Torre



FOSTER. Plays a frantic mother in "Flightplan."

IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE JODIE FOSTER HAS graced our movie screens with her intense and insightful performances. So, we're looking forward to catching her in her new film, "Flightplan."

The movie's setting is a state-of-the-art airliner flying from Berlin to New York at 37,000 feet. Suddenly, a child onboard disappears! Foster plays Kyle Pratt, the young girl's frantic, but fiercely intelligent mother whose deeply protective instincts are challenged as never before by her daughter's disappearance.

Grief

As the suspense thriller's plot unreels, however, viewers begin to wonder what's really going on. Is Kyle, who arrives on the flight still reeling from the recent loss of her husband, a woman who has gone mad with grief, or a formidably determined mother whose child is in grave danger that threatens the entire plane?

Cynthia Nixon ("Sex and the City") also plays a mother in "The Family Stone." Her child is an 11-year-old boy, Gabe, who falls in love for the first time.

Gabe isn't interested in girls just yet, but when he joins a karate class and is partnered with Rosemary Telesco (Charlie Ray), whom he's known since nursery school, everything changes!

For her part, Sarah Jessica Parker plays the tormented future in-law in "The Family Stone." Her fiancé (Dermot Mulroney) brings her home to meet his parents (Diane Keaton and Craig Nelson), brothers and sisters.

Bohemian

The bohemian Stone family members greet their visitor, a high-powered, controlling New Yorker, with confusion and hostility. Before the holiday is over, relationships unravel, new ones are formed, secrets are revealed, and the family Stone will come together through its extraordinary capacity to love.

QUAN. Topbills Gil Portes' "Isang Gabi, Apat na Lalaki."

Finally, from the Filipino movie industry comes Gil Portes' "Isang Gabi, Apat na Lalaki," an entry to the 2005 Cinemanila filmfest's digital film category.

Richard Quan, Justin de Leon, Paulo Serrano and Neil Ryan Sese play four young men at the edge of their lives, four hopeful hearts and desperate souls. On the same night, they must face tough situations and make important decisions that will take them to the point of no return.

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1. Winners will be notified thru registered mail. The notification letter will indicate when, where and how the winners will claim their prizes. Winners must bring the notification letter together with any of the following for identification purposes: Driver's license, Company ID, School ID, Passport, NBI/Police clearance.
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6. All employees of Splash Corp. and its sister companies, their distributors and advertising and promo agencies and their relatives of up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity are disqualified from joining the promo.

Magandang Umaga PILIPINAS

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0919 Series of 2005

CBCP...

From page A3-1

Pambid and Danny Magisa, and exciting newcomers Robby Romero, Chichi Atienza, Trish Katipunan, Cecil Torre, Catherine Estabillo and Myka Torre in important roles.

Torre's script presents a felt and insightful view of Pope John Paul II's life, from birth to death, revealing telling details that many people don't know about.

Evaluation

Fr. James B. Reuter, SJ, was asked by the CBCP to read Torre's script, and his evaluation concluded: "Nestor Torre's play, 'Be Not Afraid'—John - Paul II,' is excellent. It is based on magnificent research. The presentation is very human.

"It will inform the audience, beautifully, about facets of the life of John Paul II, which are hardly known. The dialogue is superb. And the whole life of the Holy Father is presented with great reverence.

"The play is entertaining, informative, and writing it was a favor to the Catholic Church."

Spirituality

Torre has been presenting religious productions all over the country for years, inspiring thousands of viewers to enhance their own spirituality. His acclaimed religious plays and musicals include "Magnificat," "Nasaan si Hesus?," "Bakhita," "Birhen ng Caysasay" and "Padre Pio."

"Be Not Afraid" is being staged all over the country as a fundraiser for the CBCP's many important projects, to honor the late pontiff, and to evangelize the populace. Sets and costumes are by Tony Adriano.

If you want "Be Not Afraid" to be performed in your parish, school, community, office or organization, call Andy at 780-9210 and 0919 206-5424, and the CBCP's Office on Women at 527-8031 or 527-4138.

Nina...

From page A3-2

Then, she recorded what would become the breakout album of 2003, "Heaven."

Just like most singers who broke out into the biz after Regine Velasquez (who set the standard for emerging divas), Nina has awesome lung power. But, her choice of songs is her strongest suit.

Her sophomore album, "Smile," had "A Girl Can Dream" and "I'll Always Stay in Love This Way." It quickly turned gold. The third and latest, "Nina Live!," reached the quintuple-platinum mark recently.

Vocalization

It's all right to have butterflies in her stomach before every performance, Nina maintained, to make sure she won't slack off.

"My greatest joy is to see my audience happy," she beamed.

SATURDAY Special

CAGE AND LETO. Glaring contradictions.

NOW SHOWING

War and wacky comedy

SCHNEIDER. Tasteless, demented—but never boring.

By Rito P. Asilo

"Lord of War"

D: Andrew Niccol
S: Nicolas Cage, Ethan Hawke

YURI ORLOV (NICOLAS CAGE) HAS AN UNcanny instinct for smuggling contraband. But, it's his flexible sense of morality and cocky, sardonic humor that shove him to the pinnacle of the world's gunrunning business trade.

His life brims with glaring contradictions: Born to staunchly Jewish immigrants from the Ukraine, he grows up in New York's Little Odessa district, and soon realizes that there's more to life than the dull comforts and safe anonymity of running the family restaurant.

He urges his younger brother, Vitaly (Jared Leto), to help him run his newfound endeavor, but the latter balks at the offer—a rare display of moral lucidity for Vitaly, because he's high on cocaine half of his waking hours!

Every time Yuri sends his drug-addled sibling to rehab, as an act of brotherly "compassion," he runs a line of coke for Vitaly to snort in before the latter trudges back into the facility.

When Yuri meets his future wife, the impressionable runway model, Ava (Bridget Moynahan)—who knows very little about his line of work (the shipping business, she's told)—he woos her with dashing bravado and braggadocio, sweeps her off her feet, marries her, and lives the high life with credit card-assisted material opulence.

But, when a high-stakes deal goes awry, his impressive run of good luck soon ends, and things take a turn for the worse when Vitaly belatedly grows a conscience. And, hot on Yuri's trail, aggressive Interpol agent, Valentine (Ethan Hawke), couldn't be more pleased!

Andrew Niccol ("Gattaca") eschews the preachy, proselytizing tone in this stirring morality tale by casting Cage, who mines his flair for satire with his dark, dry wit and vivid character comprehension. As for Leto and Moynahan, they keep the movie's political issues at bay by helping sustain dramatic tension on a personal level.

As a whole, however, the movie's cerebral musings on the morality of war may please viewers who prefer films with a persuasive political kick, but it can leave pulp fiction-weaned moviegoers cold.

"Lord of War" works best with its biting ironies: It eloquently notes that the five permanent members of the UN Security Council—the United States, Russia, France, China and the United Kingdom—are *also* the world's biggest arms suppliers!

"Deuce Bigalow: European Gigolo"

D: Mike Bigelow
S: Rob Schneider

Make no mistake: Mike Bigelow's follow-up to Mike Mitchell's hugely successful 1999 comedy, "Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo," about the ridiculously garish exploits of its male-prostitute protagonist, is as low-brow as it gets.

Fil-Am Rob Schneider's film oeuvre may be brain-free and shallow, but no one can accuse them of being dull. Tasteless and demented, yes—but boring? We don't think so. The movie's so bad it's hilarious!

Now retired from the "escorting" business, "fish enthusiast" Deuce (Schneider) grieves over his departed wife, Kate, who, during the couple's honeymoon, was devoured by a shark when she attempted to feed it.

After an unfortunate incident with dolphins, he hastily flies off to Amsterdam, with the decapitated right leg of his wife in tow. In the Dutch capital—where pot and prostitution are legal but regulated—Deuce finds himself entangled in a murder mystery.

Aside from fending off undeniable sparks with the beautiful but obsessive-compulsive Eva (Hanna Verboom), Deuce has to help his pimp-friend, TJ (Eddie Griffin), the main suspect in the series of male-prostitute murders, catch the cunning serial killer, who's out to decimate the whole population of male 'escorts' in Europe! Naturally, the group's surviving members are shaken to their trousers.

The movie is filled with Schneider's brand of gross-out humor and kooky characters.

It's interesting to note, however, that the controversy (Schneider's verbal tussle with LA Times critic, Patrick Goldstein) that hounds the movie is more engaging than the film itself.

Feistiness, zest spice up 'Desperate Housewives'

By Nestor U. Torre

TERI Hatcher leads cast of Marc Cherry's popular series.

WHY IS "DESPERATE Housewives" ringing televiewers' bells. We've caught some episodes and have gotten intimations as to the secret of its success:

It's a satirical soap opera that takes a dark, comedic look at life in suburbia, particularly from the female point of view. As the series sees it, the secret lives of housewives aren't always what they seem.

Seemingly perfect

Starting with the suicide of the seemingly perfect Mary Alice, the plot weaves its way around the lives of her neighbors, their affairs and their closet skeletons, as they each probe the real reasons for her death.

FEISTINESS/ A4-3

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2 DEUCE BIGALOW 2 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50	7 LAND OF THE DEAD 1:20 3:40 5:50 8:00 10:00
3 LORD OF WAR 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00	8 INTO THE BLUE 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
4 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00	9 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00
5 WALLACE AND GROMIT 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50	10 A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

ERMITA 538-7809 to 12

1 LORD OF WAR	12:25 2:45 5:05 7:25 10:00
2 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:30 9:50	5 ANG DAAN PATUNGONG KALIMUGTONG 11:00 1:00 ALA VERDE ALA POBRE 3:00 5:30 MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE AND JOHN 8:00 9:50
3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2 12:35 2:50 5:05 7:30 9:50	6 TULI 10:40 1:00 3:20 ILUSYON 6:00 8:00 10:00
4 TRABAHO 11:00 1:45 CUT 3:40 5:30 DILIM 7:40 9:50	7 LILIA FOREVER 11:00 1:00 3:00 PALERMO HOLLYWOOD 5:40 7:40 9:50

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1 WALLACE AND GROMIT 11:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:10	5 LORD OF WAR 1:05 3:45 5:25 9:15
2 DUNGEONS AND DRAGONS 2 11:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:10	6 THE 40 YEAR OLD VIRGIN 1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00
3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2 12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10	7 TRANSPORTER 2 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00
4 INTO THE BLUE 12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00	8 WILD SIDE 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00

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1 INTO THE BLUE
2 LORD OF WAR
3 DEUCE BIGALOW 2
4 TRANSPORTER 2

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 INTO THE BLUE
2 THE DESCENT
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

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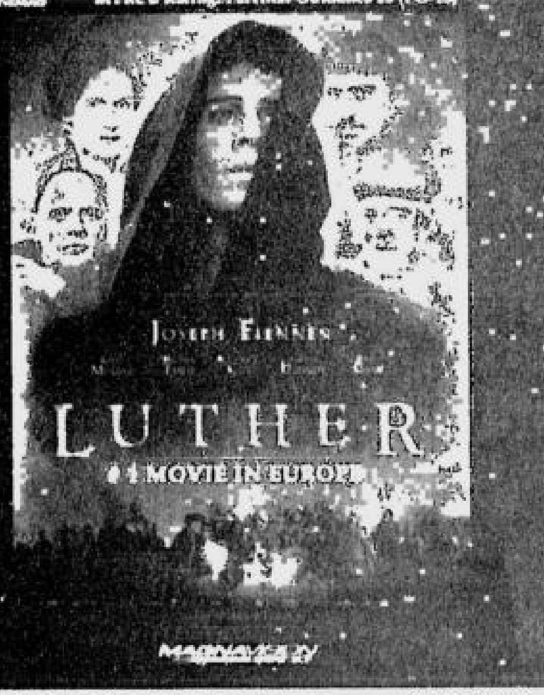

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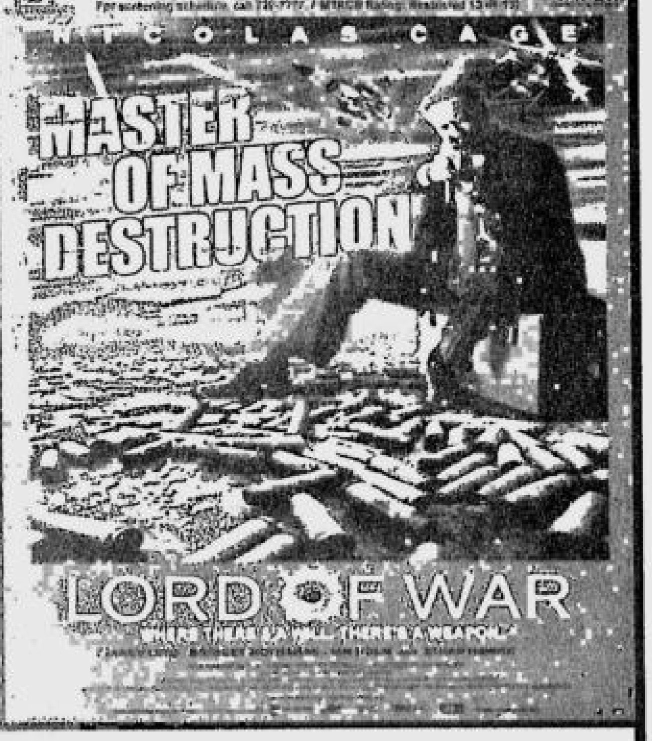
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Understanding Halloween

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

NEXT WEEK, MANY people will be observing Halloween. Sadly, however, a number of them simply follow tradition without knowing why they're celebrating it.

Historically, the practice originated with the Celts, who observed All Hallow's Eve, the night before All Saint's Day. They believed that the day prior to All Saints' Day was a period when departed souls were allowed to roam the earth to find bodies to possess. To prevent possession, people would go around wearing masks and don hideous attires to become unattractive to the spirits.

Tricking the devil

As far as the Jack-o-lantern is concerned, a folk tale explains that Jack was a drunkard and a trickster. He was so good that he even succeeded in tricking the devil! When Jack died, he wasn't accepted in heaven due to his wayward life.

But, neither was he accepted in hell because he did a number on the devil! The devil gave him a burning ember lodged inside a hallowed turnip to light his way. The tradition started with lights inside turnips, not pumpkins. But, immigrants who moved to the United States found pumpkins more practical and economical, thus the switch!

The question is, do we really need to follow tradition?

Books teach us that we should not do anything blindly, nor perform rituals simply for the sake of doing them. It is important to engage in meaningful and purposeful activity, which can lead us to a higher state of consciousness. Spending money, time and energy should result in actual benefits.

Here are pertinent questions to ask yourself:

1. Will buying decorations of skeletons, witches and Jack-o-lanterns help me achieve anything?
2. Will teaching children to wear costumes of ghosts and creatures from the underworld help them attain a higher consciousness?
3. Will giving a child candies help improve his condition in life?

Some people may say we're robbing children of their fun. But, what kind of happiness do we derive from following a tradition that is built on promoting lower levels of existence? Is loading up children's bodies with so much sugar really a treat?

Physically, mentally and spiritually, we are creating havoc on people's lives, while fostering the illusion that this is fun and worthwhile.

As long as we remain in illusion and blind faith, it'll be hard to find real happiness. So, give up the fake and faulty and, instead, pursue the genuine and sublime.

Feistiness . . .

From page A4-1

In one episode, Lynette's father pays a visit, and Susan becomes alarmed when she realizes just how close Julie and Zach have gotten.

In the show's Valentine's Day special, love is in bloom on Wisteria Lane, as Susan looks forward to a romantic date with Mike Delfino, until she learns a surprising fact about her favorite plumber.

Meanwhile, Bree discovers something new about hubby Rex; Lynette's cranky old neighbor accuses the Scavo twins of thievery, and Gabrielle's work adventures continue as she gets a gig as a matress model!

Blackmail

Subsequently, Mike Delfino is questioned about Mrs. Huber's murder. John's friend, Justin, attempts to blackmail Gabrielle with his knowledge of their affair.

Tom wants a big promotion, but Lynette fears that she'll have to be home alone with the kids more than ever. Bree is shocked when she finds a condom—and even more so when she realizes to whom it belongs. For his part, Zach Young plans a pool party for the teens of Wisteria Lane—and things get out of hand!

In an upcoming episode, Maisy Gibbons' series of unfortunate events shocks the residents of Wisteria Lane, and have unexpected consequences for Bree. Gabrielle faces a crisis of her own when her sewer system goes on the blink—and she doesn't have the money to fix it!

Lynette braves a scandal when it's rumored that the twins started the school's head lice epidemic. And, as Susan sinks into depression over her breakup with Mike, she finds a surprising ally.

Romantic encounters

As these thumbnail sketches show, the series banks heavily on its female leads' romantic encounters and fantasies, but it by no means limits itself to them. Its other strong suit is its gallery of textured, colorful and even ornery supporting, cameo or guest characters, who add a lot of feistiness and zest to the show's already bracing brew.

Recently, for instance, Lynette got into an ugly feud with an elderly neighbor, who accused her twins of stealing her old clock. Lynette stood up for her kids, the irate old lady ran over their bicycle with her car, and Lynette pelted her with eggs!

Later, Lynette discovered to her dismay that her twins were indeed guilty of the petty crime, and the little rascals had to apologize to the elderly neighbor. —Not a jot of sex, but a feisty and charming highlight for that episode!

Healthy dose of cynicism and romance

SOUNDTRACK of the Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie starrer explores the darker side of love.

By Noelani Torre

THE SONGS IN THE "Mr. & Mrs. Smith" original motion picture soundtrack are everything you'd expect from a movie about a married couple trying to assassinate each other.

Blood and mayhem

There's blood and mayhem in these tracks, but there's quite a number of love songs, too. Hence, a song like Voodoo Glow Skulls' reworking of Guns n' Roses' "Used to Love Her (But I Had To Kill Her)" sits side by side with the Stine J.'s cheery "You Are My Sunshine." This is a juxtaposition you might not see again—not until the next love-hate-kill-you-and-kiss-you action extravaganza, that is.

The collection opens with a healthy dose of cynicism in the form of the J. Giles Band's "Love Stinks." Not a surprising choice. This is followed by Poison's "Nothin' But a Good Time" and Soft Cell's "Tainted Love."

The latter has been ubiquitous in a number of recent soundtracks, but its upbeat bitterness is in keeping with the manic-depressive yet fun feel of the soundtrack itself.

Most of the 17 tracks in this CD are divisible into anti-love and love categories. Other songs that explore the darker side of love are Kansas Cali's "If I Neva See You Again," the Righteous Brothers' "You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'," and Atreyu's version of Bon Jovi's "You Give Love a Bad Name."

The more romantic songs are Alana D's take on Amy Grant's "Baby, Baby," Magnet and Gemma Hayes' remake of Bob Dylan's "Lay, Lady, Lay," Nouvelle Vague's reinterpretation of Modern English's "I'll Melt With You," "Nobody Does It Better" by 8mm, Air Supply's "Making Love Out of Nothing at All," and album ender "Love Will Keep Us Together" by Captain & Tennille.

Compilation

The compilation is rounded out by cool numbers like Charles Wright & The Watts' 103rd Street Rhythm Band's "Express Yourself (Mocean Worker Remix)," "Mondo Bongo" by Joe Strummer & The Mescaleros, and the instrumental track, "Assassin's Tango" by John Powell.

This selection of covers and nostalgia-inducing numbers is eclectic enough to keep you interested—and it stays true to the film's theme. However, there are a couple of losers, particularly in the love song category. Alana D's "Baby, Baby" is dry and lifeless—not that the original version wasn't!

"Nobody Does It Better" is *not* memorable. As for "Making Love Out of Nothing At All"—one of the few originals—it's still as cringe-worthy as it was in 1983.

The other tracks are okay, though. In fact, some of them—like the unexpectedly metallic rendition of "You Give Love a Bad Name"—even approach brilliance.

The collection itself is far from brilliant, however. Still, there are enough good songs to even out the bad, and if you can't stand some of the latter, well, there's always the skip-button option.

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'Ilusyon' is the first fully-realized Filipino art film

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN THE NEW DIGITAL FILM, "ILUSYON," got a grade of "A" from the Cinema Evaluation Board, many film buffs asked us what it was about the Viva movie by Paolo Villaluna and Ellen Ramos that had made it clinch that top rating.

The film is currently competing in the Cinemanila filmfest, so you can see it there and appreciate the film's strong points for yourself.

For our part, we felt "Ilusyon" deserved the CEB's top grade because it had set a high artistic objective for itself—and met it.

Some people dismiss the movie as "just" a sexy production, but it's much more than that. Yes, there's some nudity, since the female protagonist is an artists' model, but it's clear from the mature way that the movie's few sexy scenes are treated that nudity and sex aren't its main concerns.

Themes

The film is, in fact, an artistic investigation of the themes of honesty, identity, integrity, and the subjective vagaries of love and beauty.

The film is set in the '50s, and introduces us to a visual artist's son (Yul Servo), who tracks down his father to his residence and studio, only to learn that he has gone away to find himself.

Right off the bat, this missed opportunity at bonding between father and son suggests that, in this movie, things won't be as they seem, and the principal characters could be at cross-purposes.

Indeed, the plot thickens when the son casually assumes his father's identity. He is prompted to do this when a lovely artists' model (Jaycee Parker) arrives to pose for the artist in the nude.

The son wants to become a painter himself, so he audaciously pretends to be his father, and clumsily sketches the model in the nude. Later, they get to like and then love each other—until the model evinces the symptoms of a serious illness that "stain" her lovely body.

Imperfect

This renders her beauty imperfect, and undermines Yul's love for her. He's an artist, after all—or at least, the son of one—and beauty is his muse.

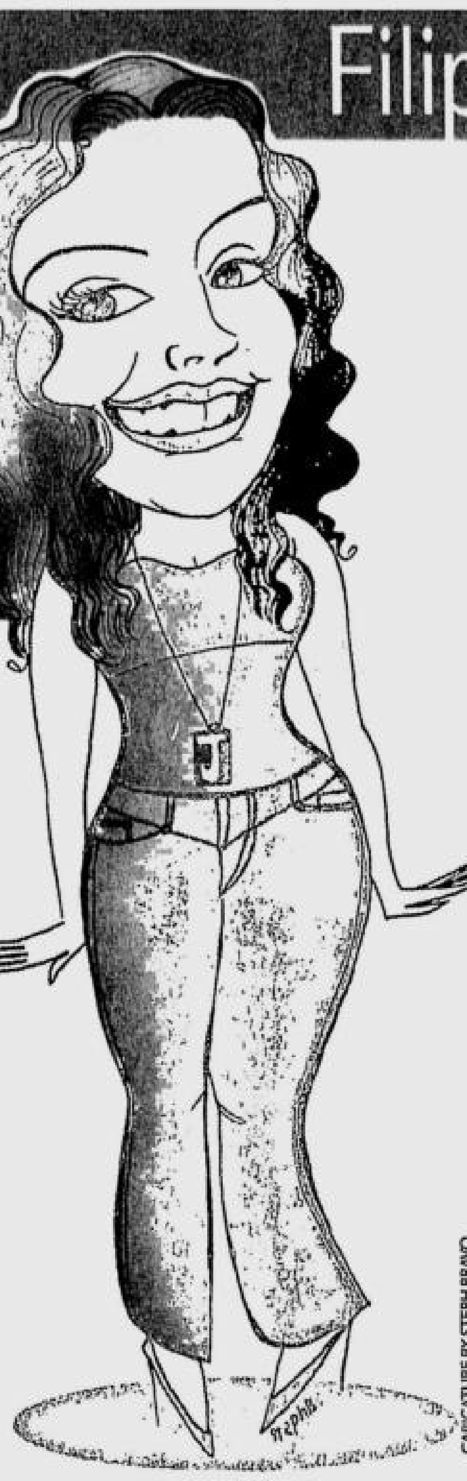
Naturally, Jaycee is hurt, and the revelation of Yul's dishonesty wounds her all the more, resulting in her leaving him. Yul realizes he can't live without her, "imperfections" and all, and takes a long time looking for her. When he finally arrives at her home in the province, however, she's gone.

This is a deceptively simple tale, but it's in fact told with thematic and psychological complexity, with artistic smoke and mirrors. The wonder is that the production doesn't fall apart due to its stress on nuance, symbolism and indirection. What save it from this fate are the importance of its themes, the accessibility of its storytelling, and the empathetic performances of its two leads.

Revelation

Jaycee Parker is the revelation here. Yes, she's a sexy star, but she has much more going for her than daring and baring. Her performance is natural and felt, the camera falls in love with her, and expectedly, viewers will, too. But, "Ilusyon" is ultimately a triumph for filmmakers Villaluna and Ramos.

See it as soon as you can, by all means, and savor the pleasures and delights of the first fully-realized Filipino art film.



PARKER. Has much more going for her than daring and baring.

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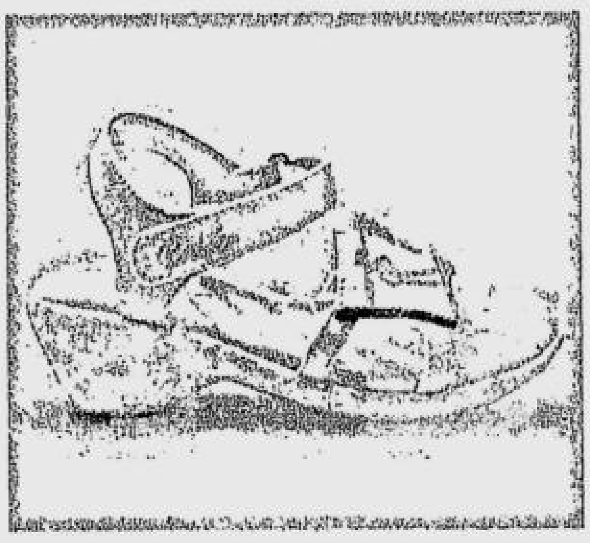
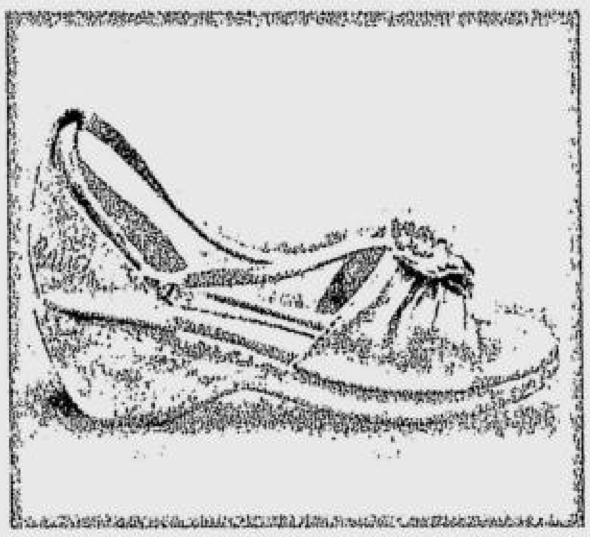
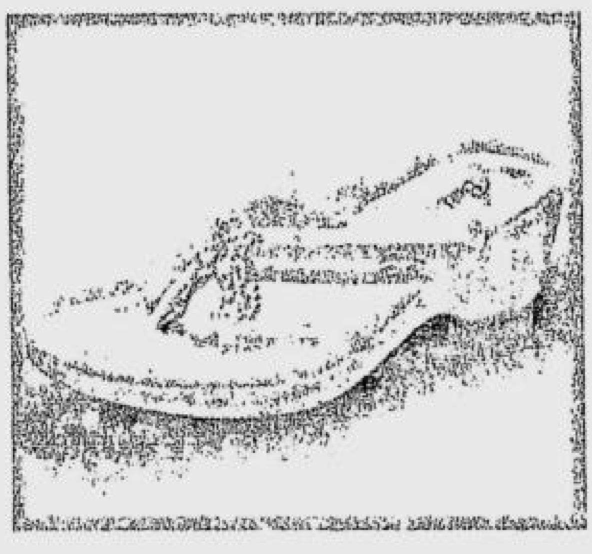

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Screen villain we loved to hate

LORRE. Gifted thespian.

By Behn Cervantes

THERE IS NO JOY TO LIFE UNless the danger of death co-exists with it. Naturally, there is no sweetness to romance without heartbreak. Neither is there a hero unless a villain underscores his fine virtues. Therefore, the more vicious the villain, the better the hero comes across to his audience. To paraphrase Mae West, "Only when the villain is bad is he any good!

Memories

Since the beginning of motion pictures, villains have thrilled audiences. My earliest memories of villains include the likes of Peter Lorre, Sir Sidney Greenstreet and Basil Rathbone.

Lorre had a distinct German accent, funny eyes and a voice that squealed like a sow whenever he was nervous, afraid or in pain. Of Hungarian descent, he had ample theatrical experience in Switzerland, Austria and Germany before director Fritz Lang brought him to Hollywood to portray the psychopathic child murderer in "M" in 1931. I must have seen seven of his Hollywood movies as a young boy—and I really hated him!

Even when he was cruelly shot in "Casablanca," I was glad to be rid of him early on because he lacked grace and poise.

Classics

Interestingly, he also appeared as a villain in "The Maltese Falcon." "Arsenic and Old Lace" and "Crime and Punishment." In 1951, he directed, scripted and starred in "The Lost One," considered by critics as "a remarkable film reminiscent of the expressionism of German films of the early '20s."

Lorre must have been the first villain I enjoyed hating! Because "M" had become a huge success, Hollywood capitalized on his peculiar appeal. He was wasted in a dozen low-budget flicks. This naturally frustrated the highly-educated and well-trained thespian.

Due to financial needs born out of a cosmopolitan lifestyle and expensive divorces, Lorre continued to appear in films up to 1964.

By then, he was appearing in cameo roles that merely spoofed his earlier characters! Lorre played them well—but, with a heavy heart.

'Dreams'

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

ART PATRON MARLENE AGUILAR is happy to have helped discover promising painter Demetrio dela Cruz. For years, he had been working in oil and acrylic.

In college, he won major awards in the annual PLDT, Metrobank and Shell art contests. But, starting a family at a young age compelled him to work in ad agencies before he could start his own business—studio photography.

Last year, Art Association of the Philippines president Fidel Sarmiento brought one of Demetrio's oil masterpieces to Marlene for her book, "Encyclopedia of Philippine Art, Vol. 1." She liked the painting and readily included it in her book.

Watercolor

When she met Demetrio, she suggested that he try watercolor—and he did! And his luck has since changed!

"It's only now that I'm painting full-time. I'm glad I went into watercolor," confesses Demetrio, who, surprisingly, has never had a solo exhibit of his works.

It was perfect timing when Marlene's restaurateur-friend, Billy King, was looking for a new artist whose paintings he could exhibit at his place, Cést Si Bon.

Last Saturday, Demetrio's first solo exhibit, "Dreams by Demetrio," finally opened at Cést Si Bon. With 20 of De la Cruz' paintings on show, the exhibit runs until the end of November.

Cést Si Bon is on Commerce ave. corner West Gate, Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Call Larry Forin at 0920 924-3044.

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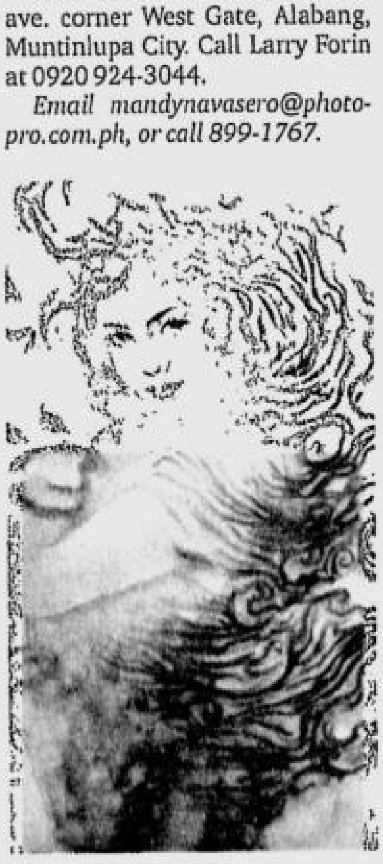

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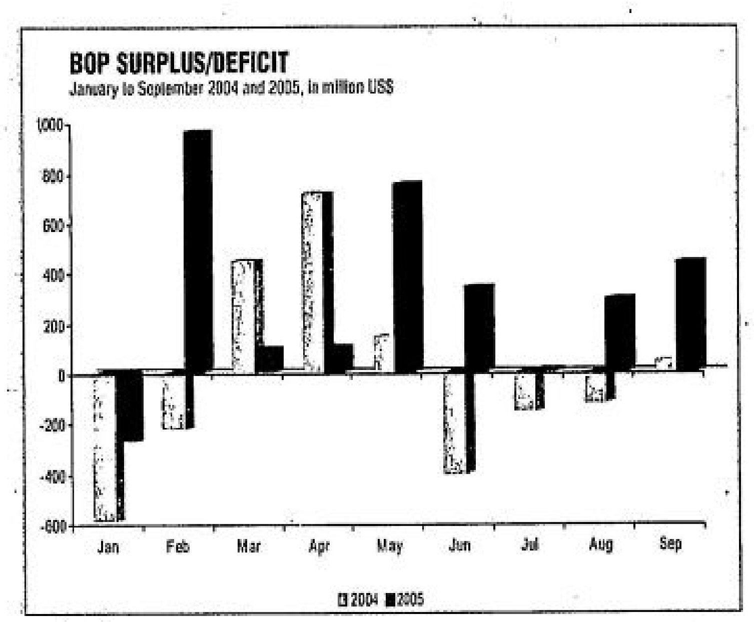

Balance of payments posts $2.73B surplus

STRONG DOLLAR INFLOWS from migrant remittances, exports, investments and foreign borrowings shored up the Philippines' balance of payments to a surplus of $2.73 billion from January to September as against a $176-million deficit a year ago.

It was the strongest BOP surplus build-up attained by the Philippines since 1999, when a windfall of $3.59 billion was posted, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

The country's BOP surplus in the first nine months also reflected the surge in the country's gross international reserves (GIR) to an all-time high of $18.59 billion as of end-September.

For the month of September alone, the BOP surplus stood at $439 million, dwarfing the $44-million surplus in the same month last year.

"The January-September 2005 BOP surplus was achieved following strong growth in OFW (overseas Filipino workers) remittances and foreign investment inflows, both direct and portfolio, improved balance of trade, higher government external borrowings and improved investment income," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

The BOP measures the foreign exchange transactions between the local economy and the rest of the world. Its major components are the current account and the capital and financial account.

The current account records trade in goods and services as well as cash transfers, such as from migrant workers, while the capital and financial account includes foreign investment flows.

Any transaction which gives rise to a payment by a Philippine resident like importation is a deficit item in the BOP while any transaction which gives rise to a receipt like exporting or inward remittance is a surplus item.

The $439-million BOP surplus posted in September also represented an improvement from the $297-million surplus in August.

The BOP is closely linked to the country's foreign reserves, which in turn were boosted in September by proceeds from the government's latest $1-billion global bond float.

The GIR, consisting of the BSP's gross foreign currency holdings, gold reserves, special drawing rights from multilateral

BALANCE/ B2

WHAT'S INSIDE

Less gov't money will be used to pay interests in '06 /B2

$500-M '05 mineral exports target within reach, says Bureau of Mines /B2

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OFW remittances jump 28.3% to $954M in Aug.

Eight-month total inflow reaches $7B

By Doris C. Dumlao

OVERSEAS FILIPINO workers remitted $954 million in August, or 28.3 percent better than the amount they sent a year ago, as more skilled workers found lucrative jobs outside the country.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday announced that for the first eight months of the year, OFW remittances coursed through banks had hit $7 billion, or 28 percent better than the $5.5 billion a year ago.

"Given the more than 20 percent year-on-year expansion that has prevailed since February, remittances are expected to remain strong going into the holiday season," Tetangco said.

Bulk of the migrant remittances came from the United States, Saudi Arabia, Italy, Japan, Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates and Singapore.

The BSP chief said that vigorous marketing efforts by commercial banks—such as enhanced money transfer services, more remittance centers and tie-ups with foreign financial institutions and collection agents—were encouraging more OFWs to send funds to their local beneficiaries through the formal banking channels.

Tetangco has been saying that the use of formal financial institutions would provide an accessible, timely and safe channel for remittance transactions and help promote better savings habits among OFWs. For the authorities, better monitoring mechanisms and understanding of these flows are seen to impact positively on policy-making.

Based on a study of the Mexican experience, remittances held as deposits in the banking system had a beneficial multiplier effect of between two to three times as these could be channeled to investments, with small and microbusinesses among the beneficiaries.

Also contributing to the continued surge in migrant remittances is the increase in the number of OFWs during the first eight months of 2005.

Data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration showed that deployed migrant workers increased by 1.6 percent to 660,726 following continuing efforts by the government in cooperation with the private sector to provide skills-enhancing and other development programs.

Sea-based workers deployed abroad rose by 9.7 percent to 165,896, compensating for the 0.8 percent decline in the deployment of land-based workers.

The hiring of higher-paid migrant workers—such as seafar-

OFW/ B2

MORE workers have found lucrative jobs outside the country, enabling them to remit through banks some $7 billion in cold cash.

ROGER MARGALLO

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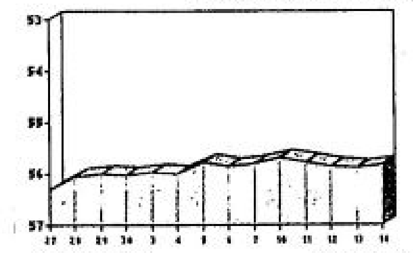
CURRENCIES



GOLD: $471.30-471.80

per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 14, 2005

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 55.83 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 14, 2005

¥ 114.51 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 14, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Shares close little changed

SHARE prices closed little changed yesterday as profit-taking in market leader Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) offset gains in other stocks, dealers said.

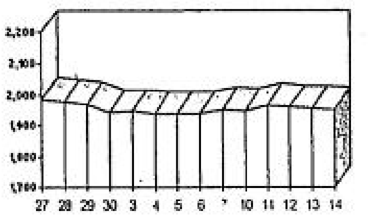
The market moved without any clear direction in the absence of fresh leads and because of prevailing political uncertainties, they said.

The composite index fell 1.87 points to 1,953.14 after trading between 1,950.97 and 1,959.71. Volume was 330.5 million shares worth P1.52 billion.

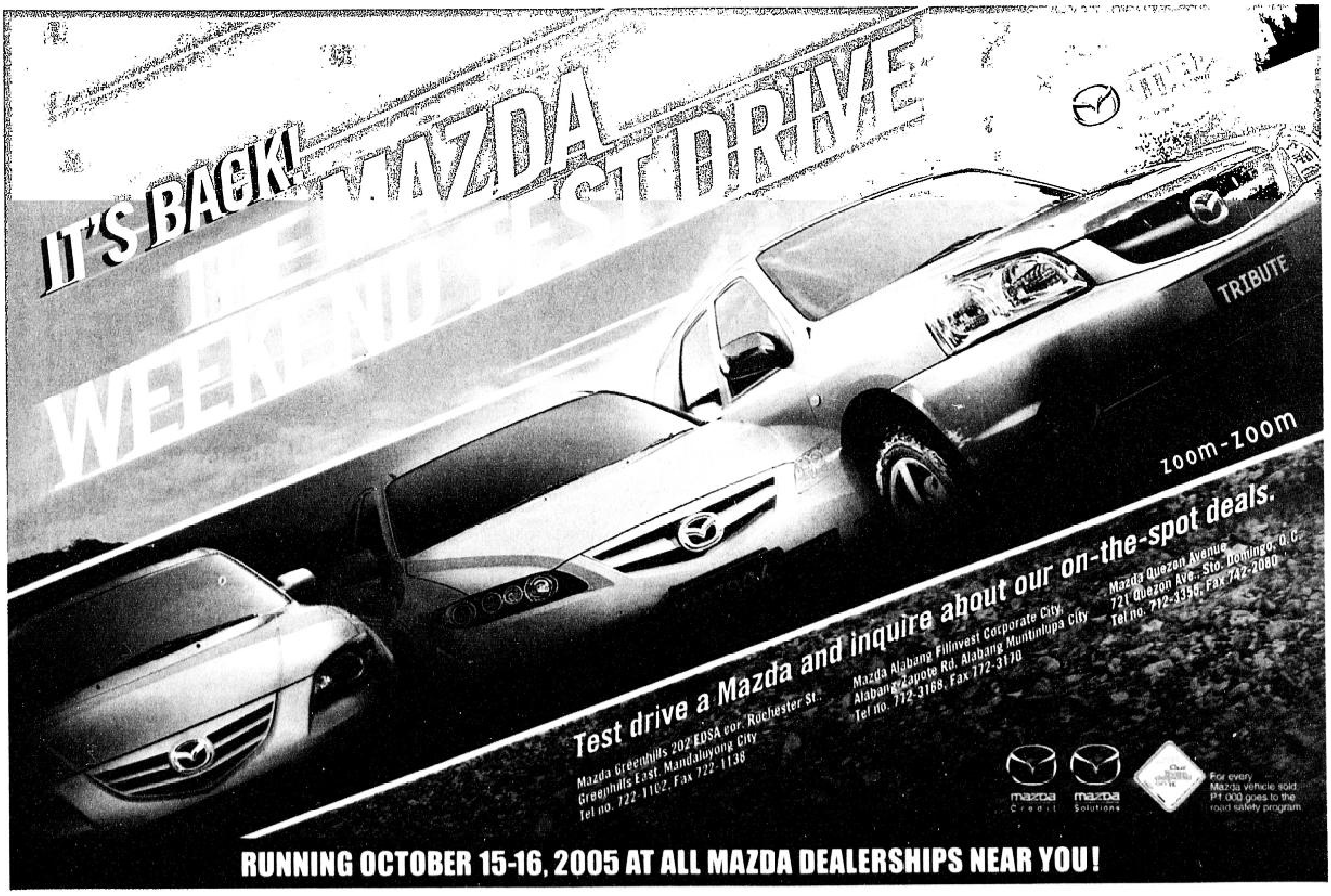
The all-shares index fell 0.55 points to 1,184.28.

SHARES/ B3

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B3)



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Less gov't money will be used to pay interest in '06

By Michelle V. Remo

OFFICIALS EXPECT THAT BY NEXT year, they will be using a smaller portion of the government's revenue to settle the country's debt interests.

This will mark the first such decline since the Philippines began experiencing chronic fiscal problems in the late 1990s.

The Department of Finance has set a fiscal program for 2006 wherein the share in government revenue to be used to pay off interests will drop to 35.1 percent from the estimated 37.3 percent this year.

According to Finance Assistant Secretary Gil Beltran, the expected decline in the share of government revenue earmarked for interest payments next year, may be attributed to the decelerating growth of its debts and the accelerating growth in its revenues.

Higher revenues would allow government to borrow less, and therefore slow down the growth of its debts.

"Debt would be growing at a rate slower than that of the economy, while revenues would be recording a faster growth rate," Beltran told reporters.

But Beltran said the expected growth in revenue next year would hinge on the the 2006 implementation of the VAT Reform Law (RVAT), which is still under a temporary restraining order. The government estimated that the VAT, once implemented in 2006, could generate over P80 billion in additional revenue a year.

The Supreme Court has suspended the implementation of the RVAT, which was supposed to take effect last July 1, following petitions filed by critics of the law who questioned its constitutionality. The high tribunal, however, recently declared the law constitutional. Economic officials believe that the suspension will be lifted anytime soon.

Beltran said revenue next year are expected to grow by 23.7 percent on a year-on-year basis, while interest payments are seen to increase only by 8.5 percent.

Aside from the VAT, government expects additional revenue to be generated from administrative measures like enhancement of the Bureau of Internal Revenue's auditing system to detect tax cheats, and the privatization of state assets.

Loan arranger

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

THIS COUNTRY WANTS TO GET RID of the bankrupt state-owned Napocor, and so Napocor is doing everything it can to rush its borrowings of hundreds of millions of dollars abroad.

I am not kidding. Napocor borrowed $400 million only recently. Our spirited mafia in Napocor now threatens to borrow another $150 million—and very soon.

I tell you, this prolific loan arranger is back!

And so, ladies and gentlemen, you may wonder if this is the debt-ridden, bleeding government firm that the law says should fold up to save this country from ruin.

If, under the law nicknamed Epira, we have to privatize Napocor, why is this broke but still cute adinistration of Gloriaetta allowing Napocor to borrow a lot of money as if there is no tomorrow?

It could be that, to the graft-ridden corruption-infested mafia in Napocor, privatization is no longer the priority that it should be under the Epira.

The law says that we must privatize at least 70 percent of all—and I mean, ALL—of Napocor's power generation plants at around this time.

So far, the corporate marketing arm called Psalm sold only 11 percent of Napocor's power generation plants.

Do you think the Napocor mafia may have millions of reason for wanting to disregard the law, or do you think they are just that plain crooked?

* * *

ONLY last year, as preparation for privatization, Napocor offered its personnel a retirement package, which again resulted in a P1.2-billion scam.

Some 25 executives of Napocor got some P120 million of the package. They were the same guys who have been running Napocor for the past year—and running it to the ground.

Without much ado, thank you, after they got the retirement package, they got themselves re-hired by the same Napocor through some evil scheme.

To top it all, the mafia is still engaged in shady deals. Napocor officials are still related to corporations and individuals dealing with Napocor, cornering juicy contracts again.

Insiders say it is a well-entrenched racket.

* * *

THE last time I checked, Napocor was staring at some P31 billion in losses this year, on top of the hundreds of billions of pesos in losses it accumulated through the years.

The Napocor losses of course will add to the budget deficit—whether we, the taxpayers of diverse income levels, like it or not.

That's why the law determined that we have to get rid of this monster, before it could send the entire country spinning into another debt crisis.

Look, boss, precisely because the Epira requires the Napocor privatization, this cute administration decided to absorb P200 billion of the Napocor debts.

Again, the law requires national government to absorb the debts of Napocor, because it will allow Napocor to clean its books for the privatization.

Napocor follows the law, when it comes to the transfer of its debts to the national government, but it forgets the other half of the law, the one about privatization.

Let me guess: Napocor does the parts in the law that favor the mafia, but the same Napocor forgets the parts that are inimical to their interest—is that it?

Happy days are here again for the Napocor mafia!

* * *

THAT'S the only conclusion we can derive from Napocor trying its best to pile up some more debts—foreign debts, at that!

According to news reports, Napocor will borrow another $150 million abroad again soon.

For the sake of those geniuses at the Department of Finance, the Department of Energy, and the Bangko Sentral, it means that the Napocor mafia will have some P8.5 billion to play around with.

Napocor said it would issue dollar bonds to stay afloat long enough until it could sell its power generation plants.

If that is the case, the earlier Napocor can sell those plants, the less would be the need for us to incur more debts.

As to what's keeping Napocor precisely from selling those plants, the news reports forgot to say.

* * *

LAST month, Napocor issued some $100 million worth of IOUs. That's about P5.6 billion at the current exchange rate.

I got the impression from news reports that the Napocor borrowings even made Bangko Sentral Governor Armando Tetangco Jr. jump for joy, because the fresh loans raised the gross international reserve of the central bank.

Nobody said anything about the pricing of the Napocor float. Never mind it was expensive.

From what I heard, we have to pay an interest rate for those $100-million worth of Napocor IOU that was some 100 basis points over the existing rates for Philippine borrowings.

Oh, and by the way, the so-called financial intermediaries also earned a little commission of 1.5 percent, or about $1.5 million, or about P80 million.

That is the commission Napocor gave to "financial intermediaries" that will be taken from your tax payments, ladies and gentlemen.

* * *

AND all for what—for the Napocor mafia to make more money?

In case the Napocor mafia does not know it yet, an increase in the national debt is not as desirable as an increase in the economic growth rate.

When you talk of the national debt, boss, the higher it gets, the worse it will make this country look before the world. It is not something good for us.

This cute administration already plans to borrow P130 billion abroad this year just to pay for some old debts—such as those incurred by Napocor.

Locally, it is borrowing some P350 billion. And we see no end to all the borrowings as yet.

May we, the taxpayers, therefore suggest to the Napocor guys that part of the solution to this problem called NATIONAL DEBT is the privatization of those power plants—not more Napocor borrowings.

Of course, Congress can always call for an investigation on the renewed appetite of Napocor for foreign debts.

But then again Gloriaetta has a standing order to her people that they cannot attended congressional hearings without her permission.

If Congress dares to find out why Napocor is not following the Epira law, the Palace can always send Congress its CPR technique too.

Sen. Joker Arroyo got mad at Napocor president Cyrill del Callar for refusing to reveal the names of Napocor officials who got fat allowances and retirement benefits, spending like drunken sailors.

Senators know why they are delaying privatization.

Napocor is one of the biggest causes of our money headaches. That's why kill us with taxes.

Napocor was a P500-billion mess which they passed on to the national government. How will the government pay for it? Taxes.

The business community could hardly wait for the privatization.

$500-M '05 mineral exports target within reach, says mines bureau

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUreau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is confident that the country's mineral exports will reach $500 million by the end of the year.

Edwin G. Domingo, DENR's Mines and Geosciences Bureau assistant director, said part of the mineral exports will come from local mining companies that have recently gone onstream such as the Coral Bay Nickel Corp., the polymetallic project of Lafayette Mining Philippines, and TVI Pacific Group of companies.

Currently there are 14 large-and medium-scale metallic mines in operation. Also, there is also a copper smelting plant in Leyte and a nickel plant in Palawan.

The mines of Philex Mining Corp., Cagdianao Mining Corp., Benguet Corp., Lepanto Consolidated Mining Corp. and Taganito Mining Corp. are also expected to generate higher yield this year, Domingo said.

For next year, mineral production could even be higher with the rehabilitation of the Toledo/Carmen mines of Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp.. Also expected to go onstream are the Teresa Gold Project of Lepanto Consolidated, the Padcal mine of Philex Mining Corp., the Adlay nickel project of BHP/QN1 in Surigao gold district and the Masara Mine of Apex Mining in Davao.

"There is still a lot of potential to develop new mines ... about 9 million hectares or 30 percent of the archipelago has been identified to be of high potential for mineral deposits," said Domingo.

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ALBAY

LOT 1 - Vacant Lot
L.A.: 252 sqm.
Lot 18, Blk 1, Al-Bay Subd., Bonot, Legazpi City
Minimum Bid Price : 322,000.00

LOT 2 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 475 sqm. F.A.: 386 sqm.
Lot 874-E Cruzada, Legazpi City
Minimum Bid Price : 2,841,000.00

LOT 3 - Vacant Lot
L.A.: 1,245 sqm.
Lot10551-F Estanza,Legazpi City
Minimum Bid Price : 150,000.00

LOT 4 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 482 sqm. F.A.: 130 sqm.
Lot 48-D-2, Row Guevarra Subd., Legazpi City
Minimum Bid Price : 515,000.00

LOT 5 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 366 sqm. F.A.: 390 sqm.
Lot 1 Lapu-Lapu St., Legazpi City
Minimum Bid Price : 1,368,000.00

LOT 6 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 400 sqm. F.A.: 245 sqm.
Lot 5522-A-1A Bo. Rawis, Legazpi City
Minimum Bid Price : 1,803,000.00

LOT 7 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 4,942 sqm. F.A.: 77 sqm.
Lot 7927 Tambongon, Bacacay
Minimum Bid Price : 34,000.00

LOT 8 - Vacant Lot
L.A.: 4,075 sqm.
Lot 3, Brgy. Rd., Interior Bañag, Daraga
Minimum Bid Price : 2,727,000.00

LOT 9 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 1,250 sqm. F.A.: 100 sqm.
Lot 13306-A, National Rd., Bascaran, Daraga
Minimum Bid Price : 651,000.00

LOT 10 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 577 sqm. F.A.: 392 sqm.
Lot 9, Blk 7, St. Francis Subd., Poblacion, Daraga
Minimum Bid Price : 946,000.00

LOT 11 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 240 sqm. F.A.: 405 sqm.
Lot 22 Blk 10, Dona Maria Subd., Tagas, Daraga
Minimum Bid Price : 2,266,000.00

LOT 12 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 936 sqm. F.A.: 228 sqm.
Lot 1423-C-2 San Francisco, Malilipot
Minimum Bid Price : 860,000.00

LOT 13 - Vacant Lot
L.A.: 3,357 sqm.
Lot 1276 Payahan, Malinao
Minimum Bid Price : 493,000.00

LOT 14 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 750 sqm.
6706-B-4-B-2-J, Rd. Lot, Badian, Oas
Minimum Bid Price : 128,000.00

LOT 15 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 635 sqm. F.A.: 88 sqm.
Lot 1953, Brgy. Rd., Baranghawon, Tabaco City
Minimum Bid Price : 871,000.00

LOT 16 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 400 sqm. F.A.: 112 sqm.
Lot Nos. 7-A & 7-B, Camia St., Bombon, Tabaco City
Minimum Bid Price : 773,000.00

LOT 17 - Vacant Lot
L.A.: 10,838 sqm.
Lot 5004, Brgy. Visita, San Miguel Island, Tabaco City
Minimum Bid Price : 93,000.00

LOT 18 - Vacant Lot
L.A.: 996 sqm.
Lot 13, Blk 1, Tiwi Hotspring Resort, Bano, Tiwi
Minimum Bid Price : 51,000.00

LOT 19 - Vacant Lot
L.A.: 323 sqm.
Lot 14, Blk 1, Tiwi Hotspring Resort, Bano, Tiwi
Minimum Bid Price : 17,000.00

LOT 20 - Vacant Lot
L.A.: 332 sqm.
Lot 15, Blk 1, Tiwi Hotspring Resort, Bano, Tiwi
Minimum Bid Price : 17,000.00

LOT 21 - Vacant Lot
L.A.: 363 sqm.
Lot 15, Tiwi Hotsprings Resort, Bano, Tiwi
Minimum Bid Price : 19,000.00

LOT 22 - Vacant Lot
L.A.: 364 sqm.
Lot 16, Blk 1, Tiwi Hotspring Resort, Bano, Tiwi
Minimum Bid Price : 19,000.00

LOT 23 - Vacant Lot
L.A.: 425 sqm.
Lot 16, Tiwi Hotsprings Resort, Bano, Tiwi
Minimum Bid Price : 22,000.00

LOT 24 - Vacant Lot
L.A.: 376 sqm.
Lot 21, Tiwi Hotsprings Resort, Bano, Tiwi
Minimum Bid Price : 20,000.00

LOT 25 - Vacant Lot
L.A.: 346 sqm.
Lot 22, Tiwi Hotsprings Resort, Bano, Tiwi
Minimum Bid Price : 18,000.00

LOT 26 - Vacant Lot
L.A.: 374 sqm.
Lot 23, Tiwi Hotsprings Resort, Bano, Tiwi
Minimum Bid Price : 20,000.00

CAMARINES NORTE

LOT 27 - Vacant Lot
L.A.: 834 sqm.
Lot 598-H, Alley, Avanceña Subd., Brgy. Lag-On, Daet
Minimum Bid Price : 224,000.00

LOT 28 - Vacant Lot
L.A.: 1,138 sqm.
Lot 600-B-2-G-2-G-2-E-4, Alley, Avanceña Subd., Brgy. Lag-On, Daet
Minimum Bid Price : 436,000.00

LOT 29 - Vacant Lot
L.A.: 579 sqm.
Lot 593-D-2, Alley, Avanceña Subd., Brgy. Lag-On, Daet
Minimum Bid Price : 111,000.00

CAMARINES SUR

LOT 30 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 600 sqm. F.A.: 66 sqm.
Lot 2949, Row, Buluang, Baao
Minimum Bid Price : 318,000.00

LOT 31 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 600 sqm. F.A.: 60 sqm.
Lot 1027-P Brgy. Buluang, Baao
Minimum Bid Price : 568,000.00

LOT 32 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 380 sqm. F.A.: 341 sqm.
Lot 277 Provincial Road, Bo. San Antonio, Calabanga
Minimum Bid Price : 1,787,000.00

LOT 33 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 492 sqm.
WITHDRAWN
Minimum Bid Price :

LOT 34 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 918 sqm. F.A.: 388 sqm.
Lots 190 & 191, Prov'L Rd., Sta. Cruz, Calabanga
Minimum Bid Price : 2,388,000.00

LOT 35 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 973.04 sqm. F.A.: 221 sqm.
Lot 522 National Road Bo Sta. Salud, Calabanga
Minimum Bid Price : 1,221,000.00

LOT 36 - W/ makeshift Improvement
L.A.: 621 sqm.
Lot 3025 & 3022 Miranda St., Bo. San Nicolas, Canaman
Minimum Bid Price : 72,000.00

LOT 37 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 150 sqm. F.A.: 141 sqm.
Lot 281-P, La Purisima St., Goa
Minimum Bid Price : 321,000.00

LOT 38 - Lot & Improvement
L.A. 453 sqm.
WITHDRAWN
Minimum Bid Price :

LOT 39 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 174 sqm. F.A.: 139 sqm.
Lot 3505 Tirad Pass St., San Nicolas Iriga City
Minimum Bid Price : 463,000.00

LOT 40 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 595 sqm. F.A.: 132 sqm.
Lot No 3293, Brgy. Road, San Roque, Lagonoy
Minimum Bid Price : 482,000.00

LOT 41 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 321 sqm. F.A.: 110 sqm.
Lot 5068-A, Brgy. Busak, Libmanan
Minimum Bid Price : 612,000.00

LOT 42 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 701 sqm. F.A.: 237 sqm.
Lot 4031 Miracle St. San Vicente, Libmanan
Minimum Bid Price : 811,000.00

LOT 43 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 1,105 sqm. F.A.: 402 sqm.
Lot 1,2 & 3, All Of Blk. 7 Cor. St. Jude & Sto. Niño Sts., Peñafrancia Subd., Brgy. San Felipe, Naga City
Minimum Bid Price : 3,590,000.00

LOT 44 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 733 sqm. F.A.: 516 sqm.
Lot 19 National Road, Poblacion, Ocampo
Minimum Bid Price : 2,179,000.00

LOT 45 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 3,452 sqm. F.A.: 240 sqm.
Lots 2-G-1 & 1, Alcantara St., Poblacion, Ocampo
Minimum Bid Price : 4,444,000.00

LOT 46 - Vacant Lot
L.A.: 370 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 19 La Paz Subd, Anayan, Pili
Minimum Bid Price : 148,000.00

LOT 47 - Vacant Lot
L.A.: 450 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk 14 La Paz Subd, Anayan, Pili
Minimum Bid Price : 288,000.00

LOT 48 - Vacant Lot
L.A.: 450 sqm.
Lot 13 Blk 14 La Paz Subd, Anayan, Pili
Minimum Bid Price : 288,000.00

LOT 49 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 709 sqm. F.A.: 257 sqm.
4046-G-2-B,4046-G-2-E-1,&4046-G-2-E-2 Provincial Road, Bo. San Roque, Pili
Minimum Bid Price : 3,476,000.00

LOT 50 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 288 sqm. F.A.: 103 sqm.
Lot 43 Canuto St, San Vicente, Pili
Minimum Bid Price : 1,353,000.00

LOT 51 - Vacant Lot
L.A.: 59,507 sqm.
Lot 596 & 593 Cagnipa, Presentacion
Minimum Bid Price : 135,000.00

LOT 52 - Vacant Lot
L.A.: 5,711 sqm.
Lot 812 Parubcan, Presentacion
Minimum Bid Price : 13,000.00

LOT 53 - Vacant Lot
L.A.: 53,783 sqm.
Lot 407 Poblacion, Presentacion
Minimum Bid Price : 61,000.00

LOT 54 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 1,482 sqm. F.A.: 310 sqm.
Lot 815 & 816 National Road Brgy. Pamukid, San Fernando
Minimum Bid Price : 1,604,000.00

LOT 55 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 991 sqm. F.A.: 187 sqm.
Portion Of Lot 2884, Brgy. Road, Bongliw, Brgy. Pugay, San Jose
Minimum Bid Price : 746,000.00

LOT 56 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 278 sqm. F.A.: 179 sqm.
#14 Real St., San Juan, San Jose
Minimum Bid Price : 668,000.00

LOT 57 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 610 sqm. F.A.: 253 sqm.
Lot 3 National Road, Brgy. Del Carmen, Sangay
Minimum Bid Price : 1,012,000.00

LOT 58 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 534 sqm. F.A.: 148 sqm.
Lot 2713, Provincial Rd., Binalay,Tinambac
Minimum Bid Price 705,000.00

CATANDUANES

LOT 59 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 492 sqm. F.A.: 104 sqm.
1547, Nat'L. Rd., Tubli, Caramoran
Minimum Bid Price : 210,000.00

LOT 60 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 118 sqm. F.A.: 50 sqm.
Lot 2064, San Pedro, Sta. Cruz, San Andres
Minimum Bid Price : 210,000.00

LOT 61 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 704 sqm. F.A.: 120 sqm.
Lot 3115, 418 & 3073, National Road, San Jose, Viga
Minimum Bid Price : 180,000.00

LOT 62 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 123 sqm. F.A.: 144 sqm.
No. A, Concepcion, Virac
Minimum Bid Price : 183,000.00

LOT 63 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 112 sqm. F.A.: 70 sqm.
Lot No. 033, F. Tacorda, Francia, Virac
Minimum Bid Price 378,000.00

SORSOGON

LOT 64 - W/ makeshift Improvement
L.A.: 2,000 sqm.
Lot 3653-Y, Brgy. Road, Sitio Pawa, Brgy. Lajong, Bulan
Minimum Bid Price : 801,000.00

LOT 65 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 222 sqm. F.A. 444 sqm.
Lot 1-B-1, Quezon St., Poblacion, Bulan
Minimum Bid Price : 2,736,000.00

LOT 66 - W/ makeshift Improvement
L.A.: 830 sqm.
Lot 6456, Brgy. San Ramon, Bulan
Minimum Bid Price : 35,000.00

LOT 67 - Vacant Lot
L.A.: 65 sqm.
Lot 3688-B-3-B-1, Row, Brgy. Balogo, Sorsogon City
Minimum Bid Price : 50,000.00

LOT 68 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 1,992 sqm. F.A.: 91 sqm.
Lot 3081-B-1 J.S. Reyes, Brgy. Bitan-O, Sorsogon City
Minimum Bid Price : 4,334,000.00

LOT 69 - Vacant Lot
L.A.: 532 sqm.
Lot 3398-C Jimenez-Tan Subd., Brgy. Burabod, Sorsogon City
Minimum Bid Price : 543,000.00

LOT 70 - W/ makeshift Improvement
L.A.: 205 sqm.
Lot 1, Blk 2, City Road, Brgy. Cambulaga, Sorsogon City
Minimum Bid Price : 58,000.00

LOT 71 - W/ makeshift Improvement
L.A.: 239 sqm.
Lot 1, Blk 6, Road Lot, Brgy. Cambulaga, Sorsogon City
Minimum Bid Price : 40,000.00

LOT 72 - W/ makeshift Improvement
L.A.: 207 sqm.
Lot 10, Blk 2, Road Lot, Brgy. Cambulaga, Sorsogon City
Minimum Bid Price : 42,000.00

LOT 73 - W/ makeshift Improvement
L.A.: 209 sqm.
Lot 13, Blk 2, City Road, Brgy. Cambulaga, Sorsogon City
Minimum Bid Price : 59,000.00

LOT 74 - W/ makeshift Improvement
L.A.: 220 sqm.
Lot 14, Blk 2, Road Lot, Brgy. Cambulaga, Sorsogon City
Minimum Bid Price : 60,000.00

LOT 75 - W/ makeshift Improvement
L.A.: 209 sqm.
Lot 15, Blk 2, City Road, Brgy. Cambulaga, Sorsogon City
Minimum Bid Price : 51,000.00

LOT 76 - W/ makeshift Improvement
L.A.: 248 sqm.
Lot 16, Blk 2, Road Lot, Brgy. Cambulaga, Sorsogon City
Minimum Bid Price : 50,000.00

LOT 77 - W/ makeshift Improvement
L.A.: 285 sqm.
Lot 18, Blk 2, Road Lot, Brgy. Cambulaga, Sorsogon City
Minimum Bid Price : 46,000.00

LOT 78 - W/ makeshift Improvement
L.A.: 247 sqm.
Lot 2, Blk 6, Road Lot, Brgy. Cambulaga, Sorsogon City
Minimum Bid Price : 50,000.00

LOT 79 - W/ makeshift Improvement
L.A.: 209 sqm.
Lot 20, Blk 2, City Road, Brgy. Cambulaga, Sorsogon City
Minimum Bid Price : 51,000.00

LOT 80 - W/ makeshift Improvement
L.A.: 209 sqm.
Lot 22, Blk 2, City Road, Brgy. Cambulaga, Sorsogon City
Minimum Bid Price : 51,000.00

LOT 81 - W/ makeshift Improvement
L.A.: 257 sqm.
Lot 23, Blk 2, City Road, Brgy. Cambulaga, Sorsogon City
Minimum Bid Price : 72,000.00

LOT 82 - W/ makeshift Improvement
L.A.: 207 sqm.
Lot 4, Blk 2, Road Lot, Brgy. Cambulaga, Sorsogon City
Minimum Bid Price : 42,000.00

LOT 83 - W/ makeshift Improvement
L.A.: 207 sqm.
Lot 6, Blk 2, Road Lot, Brgy. Cambulaga, Sorsogon City
Minimum Bid Price : 42,000.00

LOT 84 - W/ makeshift Improvement
L.A.: 207 sqm.
Lot 8, Blk 2, Road Lot, Brgy. Cambulaga, Sorsogon City
Minimum Bid Price : 42,000.00

LOT 85 - W/ makeshift Improvement
L.A.: 209 sqm.
Lot 9, Blk 2, City Road, Brgy. Cambulaga, Sorsogon City
Minimum Bid Price : 51,000.00

LOT 86 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 235 sqm. F.A.: 141 sqm.
Lot 29 Blk 45 Olvs Pangpang, Sorsogon City
Minimum Bid Price : 389,000.00

LOT 87 - Lot & Improvement
L.A.: 240 sqm. F.A.: 40 sqm.
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OFW remittances jump 28.3% to $954M in Aug.

From page B1

ers, service staff, professional/technical workers, production-related workers—also boosted the level of remittances during the eight-month period.

Tetangco said OFW remittances continued to be an important component of the national income accounts and the balance of payments.

"For the first semester of 2005, remittances accounted for about 11 percent of nominal gross domestic product and about 18 percent of total current account receipts," Tetangco said.

Throughout the years, the Philippines has been relying on huge remittances from OFWs to boost domestic consumer demand. These remittances have likewise exceeded the amount of gross inflows of foreign direct investment since the 1990s.

During the past two years, annual flows of OFW money also approximated 45 percent of the country's stock of gross international reserves.

Balance of payments posts $2.73B surplus

From page B1

institutions and foreign investments, is an indicator of the ability to service the foreign exchange requirements of the economy like importation and debt servicing.

But BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo yesterday said that toward the end of the year, the BOP surplus would narrow due to expected outflows for external debt servicing.

However, he said the Philippines would likely exceed the BOP surplus forecast of $853 million for the whole year.

Guinigundo said there was also a possibility that the country's current account surplus would ease as slower global economic activity could reduce the country's receipts from exports and services.

"This will also mean that our GIR will go down from $18.5 billion (at end-September) but certainly, we'll still exceed the $17-billion target for this year," Guinigundo said. *Doris C. Dumlao*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 14, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	30.5	31	30.5	31	230,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	51.5	52	51.5	51.5	1,808,000
Citystate Savings Bank	17	17	17	17	100
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.53	0.54	0.53	0.53	1,570,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	48	48	47	47	255,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27	27	26.5	26.5	330,700
Philippine National Bank	30.5	30.5	30	30	62,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.5	14.5	14.25	14.25	3,300
Security Bank Corp.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	54,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	1,700
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	290,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2015	2020	2015	2020	720
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.91	0.91	0.9	0.9	2,580,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	730	735	730	735	16,500
Ipeople Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.6	2.65	30,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.046	0.046	0.045	0.045	1,200,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.68	1.68	34,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.9	2.95	2.9	2.95	1,690,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1695	1695	1680	1680	202,540
Ivantage Corp.	0.55	0.56	0.55	0.56	700,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	28,100,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.75	6,100
Manila Electric Co. B	21	21.5	21	21.5	194,800
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.6	6.6	2,419,000
Petron Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.2	3.2	4,894,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	100,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.6	9.8	9.6	9.7	2,538,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.59	0.59	270,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.53	0.55	0.53	0.55	1,500,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.05	3.1	1,474,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	28	28	28	28	26,700
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35	35	34	34	775,200
Pancake House Inc.	1.8	2.2	1.8	2.2	337,000
RFM Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	40,000
San Miguel Corp. A	65	65	64.5	65	66,000
San Miguel Corp. B	91	91.5	91	91.5	525,800
Universal Robina Corp.	16.5	16.5	16.5	16.5	9,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	180,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	282.5	292.5	282.5	292.5	120,340
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.9	4.95	4.9	4.95	17,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	10	10	10	10	6,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.022	0.022	2,600,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.14	2.24	2.14	2.2	2,502,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	2,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	550,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.9	10	9.9	9.9	16,169,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.08	0.125	0.08	0.125	600,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.99	1.02	0.99	1.02	4,620,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.185	0.19	0.185	0.19	460,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	2,330,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	464,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.1	750,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5	5	5	5	5,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42	44.5	41.5	44	2,473,000
Ionics Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.1	165,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.85	3.85	292,000
Jollivile Holdings Corp.	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	1,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	100,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.34	1.36	3,989,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	960,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	90,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.28	1.2	1.26	156,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	40,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	700,000
SM Investments Corp.	216	218	214	216	205,900
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	2,500,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	40,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	400,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.88	0.89	0.88	0.89	620,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.44	1.5	1.44	1.5	514,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	320,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	11	11	11	11	100
PLDT (10% Pref.) SerieS U	10	10	10	10	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10.5	10	10.5	1,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series AA	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	4,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	9	9	9	9	7,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.8	9	8.8	8.9	41,230,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.18	0.195	0.18	0.195	16,020,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	50,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.215	0.215	0.21	0.21	1,280,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	30,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	940,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.28	1.28	1.24	1.24	5,321,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.185	0.19	0.185	0.185	2,070,000
City & Land Developers	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	16,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	40,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	387,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	310,000
SM Development Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	43,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.4	7.3	7.4	6,582,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.92	0.96	0.92	0.95	400,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.96	0.99	0.95	0.95	410,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	20,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.4	5.7	5.4	5.6	1,030,000
Benguet Corp. A	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	6,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.52	1.52	1.5	1.5	165,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.215	0.205	0.21	4,930,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.23	11,370,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	2,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	5,500,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	90,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.08	206,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26	26	25.5	26	2,998,100
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	103,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	70,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	40,000
Pacifica	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	1,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	10,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	1,300,000

CURRENCIES

October 14, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.831186	1.000000	55.8760
Japan	Yen	0.007271	0.008748	0.4888
United Kingdom	Pound	1.459313	1.755700	98.1015
Hongkong	Dollar	0.107142	0.128903	7.2026
Switzerland	Franc	0.645331	0.776398	43.3820
Canada	Dollar	0.703085	0.845881	47.2644
Singapore	Dollar	0.492030	0.591961	33.0764
Australia	Dollar	0.621215	0.747384	41.7608
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.205264	2.653153	148.2476
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.221597	0.266603	14.8967
Brunei	Dollar	0.490578	0.590214	32.9788
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000082	0.000099	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.020298	0.024420	1.3645
UAE	Dirham	0.226333	0.272301	15.2151
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.203100	67.2244
Argentina	Peso	0.279390	0.336134	18.7818
Brazil	Real	0.368712	0.443597	24.7864
Denmark	Kroner	0.133997	0.161212	9.0079
India	Rupee	0.018520	0.022282	1.2450
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.220386	0.265146	14.8153
Mexico	New Peso	0.075980	0.091412	5.1077
New Zealand	Dollar	0.572758	0.689085	38.5033
Norway	Kroner	0.127719	0.153659	8.5859
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013899	0.016722	0.9344
South Africa	Rand	0.125547	0.151046	8.4398
Korea	Won	0.000792	0.000953	0.0532
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024864	0.029914	1.6715

Shares close . . .

From page B1

Market breadth was positive with 35 gainers against 26 losers and 51 stocks unchanged.

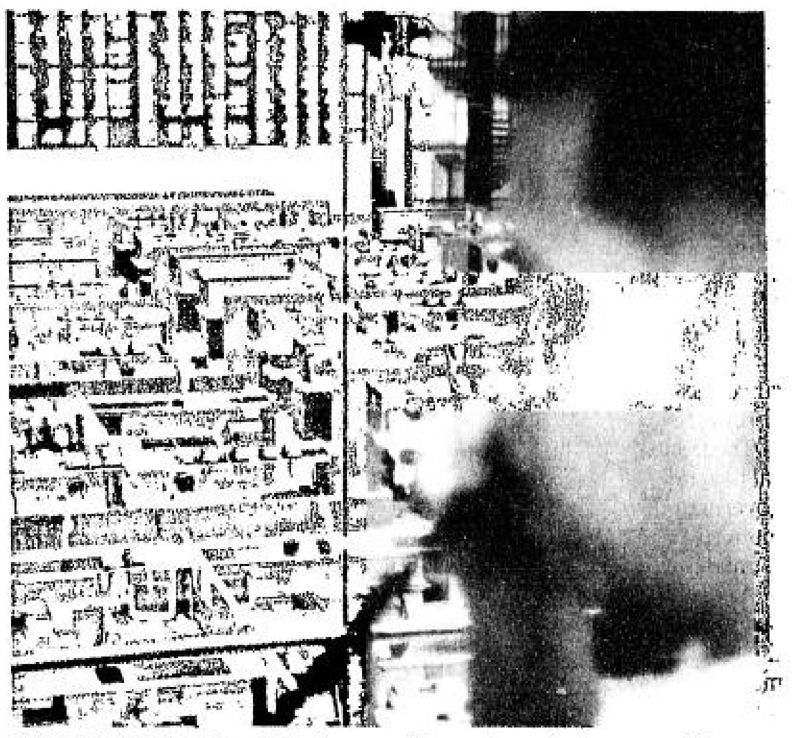
"The market is still being hounded by the country's political problems," said Astro del Castillo of First Grade Holdings.

He was referring to President Macapagal-Arroyo's continuing struggle with opposition forces who are seeking to oust her on allegations of election fraud and other supposed anomalies.

Ayala Land, the most actively traded stock, closed up 20 centavos at P8.90. Parent company Ayala Corp. rose P7.50 to P292.50.

PLDT retreated P20 to P1,680 after its New York-listed shares fell overnight.

San Miguel's "A" shares, exclusive to Filipinos, were steady at P65 but its "B" shares, which are available to all investors, rose 50 centavos to P91.50. *AFP*



THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange will soon be majority owned by investors as provided by securities laws. Member-brokers will be left with a maximum 20 percent. AFP

Kim Eng group sells PSE stake

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SINGAPORE INVESTMENT FIRM Kim Eng Group has sold the equivalent of 7 percent of Philippine Stock Exchange shares to undisclosed foreign buyers for P153.7 million, sources told INQUIRER.

Broker ATR Kim Eng Securities sold 1.06 million PSE shares at P145 each on Thursday.

Sources at the brokerage, however, could not comment on the transaction citing confidentiality agreements. The reason for the sale could not be known at presstime.

The Kim Eng Group, through Kim Eng Investment Ltd. and KE Strategic Pte. Ltd., holds 9.1 percent of PSE.

Early last year, 40 percent of the PSE was sold to strategic investors at P119.46 a share.

These include the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund, SMC Retirement Fund, foreign consultancy firm Equinox Partners and listed holding firm A. Soriano Corp.

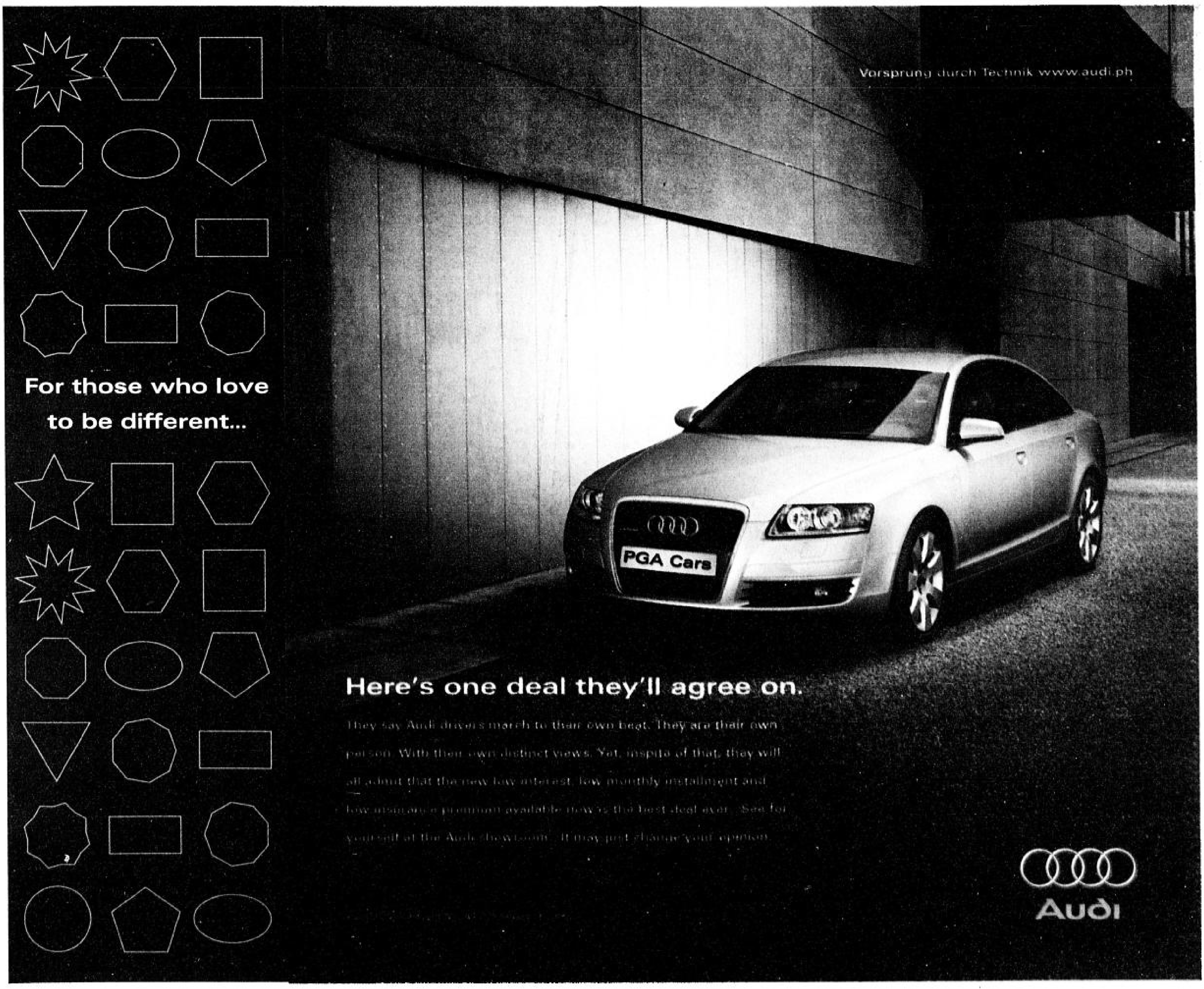
Stock brokers still hold the majority of the local bourse with a combined 60 percent.

The passage of the law protecting the interest of minority shareholders forced brokers to cede control of the local bourse to other investors.

Under the Securities Regulation Code, an industry can not own more than 20 percent of the exchange, even stock brokers.

PSE has partially complied with the law by selling 40 percent to strategic investors.

But the PSE has yet to scout for more investors to acquire another 40 percent block of the local bourse.



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Osteoporosis could become world's biggest health problem

By Tessa R. Salazar

UP TO 1.6 MILLION HIP fractures occur each year, and by 2050 this number could reach 6.3 million. Osteoporosis, the major underlying cause of hip fractures, will soon overtake heart disease as the single biggest global health threat.

Bone experts told a recent press launch of the Anlene Bone Builders that 24 percent of people who suffer hip fractures will die within a year and 50 percent would be permanently disabled.

They noted that the incidence of osteoporosis in Asia was growing at an alarming rate. They predicted that by 2050, 50 percent of all the world's hip fractures will occur in this region.

UP!
UP!
UP!
Stephs

Hospital admissions

In a major Manila hospital, about two-thirds of all female admissions over 50 are due to osteoporotic fractures.

In India, 26 million people suffer from osteoporosis, and by 2013, it is estimated to increase to 36 million.

In Malaysia, about a third of adults over 65 have osteoporosis. In Indonesia, over 21 percent of females 25 and older are estimated to have osteoporosis.

In Taiwan, about 37 percent of young people over 23 suffer from low bone mass and osteoporosis.

In Singapore, the rate of hip fractures increased five times in women and 1.5 times in men compared to the 1960s.

In China, osteoporosis among people aged 50-59 has been estimated at between 20 percent and 39 percent.

In Vietnam, the prevalence of osteoporosis has been observed to climb steadily with age, with over 30 percent of Vietnamese aged 60-69 suffering from it.

And in Hong Kong, incidents of hip fractures have increased 200 percent in the last three decades.

Longer life expectancy

Speaking via an audio-video presentation, Prof. Ian Reid, one of the world's leading bone doctors specializing in osteoporosis, said it was not clear why osteoporosis is more prevalent in Asia. He said that the increase in life expectancies could be the principal driver of this trend.

Reid also said lifestyle in the region has changed dramatically, and people living in most Asian countries are less active than they were.

He added that in many cases, Asians have a low calcium intake.

Experts also said studies showed that people around the world were not getting enough vitamin D, which has been found to facilitate the body's absorption of calcium.

"Between 18 and 25, we reach what we call the 'peak bone mass,' and this is as good and as strong as our bones will ever be. So it's really important we maximize the strength of our bones while we're young," said Dr. Linda Schollum, a microbiologist specializing on bone health.

Deadly food?

REMEMBER THE FUROR CAUSED BY THE news that a cancer-causing substance called acrylamide is found in French fries and white bread? A Swedish article pointed this out in April 2002, almost a decade after cancer researchers issued an initial warning.

What should we avoid eating? Is the food we eat safe? The following are excerpts from a report by Jowi Carteciano and Rodel Offemaria of the Science and Technology Media Service.

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

Acrylamide is acrylic acid or amide, which means it is a corrosive liquid. During cooking and processing of certain food, molecules in the ingredients react with each other during extreme heat. The chemical reaction changes their molecular structure and forms acrylamide.

Cooking at very high temperature or with very low moisture can trigger sugars like glucose and fructose to interact with asparagine, found in the juice of most plants like asparagus, bean and pea. Asparagine is a natural component of sugar- and starch-based ingredients.

High-level temperature

Procter & Gamble researchers said acrylamide only forms at a steady high temperature, when sugar- and starch-based food are fried or baked from 170 degrees to 210 degrees Celsius. At these temperatures, the moisture content of these food drops, dehydrating the food surfaces where acrylamide formation starts to occur. Acrylamide penetrates into the interior of the food, aided by heat transfer through radiation, conduction and diffusion of the blistering oil.

The Swedish report is actually a serendipitous discovery. The research was supposed to analyze the effects of acrylamide exposure on workers building a railway tunnel. Results showed the presence of high levels of the substance in their bodies, prompting the researchers to expand their study. They discovered that food was the main source, and listed the most popular foods in the construction site: French fries, potato chips, toasted bread, baked cookies, white bread. These are carbohydrate-rich, sugar- and starch-based food. Researchers in Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States have confirmed these findings.

Toxic effects

The World Health Organization and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization found that acrylamide causes cancer in laboratory rats. There is now proof of the toxic effects of acrylamide on humans, such as DNA damage, unwanted reproductive and neurological effects such as numbness and loss of muscle control, and even tingling or itchiness.

Health guru Dr. Gabe Markin warns that acrylamide may also trigger the development of diabetes. Diabetes-related molecules are formed through direct reaction between glucose and protein in the body, which results in degenerative changes in body tissues. These changes can lead to complications such as blindness, deafness, heart attack, stroke and kidney damage.

There are no consistent guidelines on acceptable levels of acrylamide in food, but the 1996 WHO Drinking Water Guidelines is used as a reference to calculate acrylamide risk on consumers. The guidelines state that 0.0005-milligram per liter of acrylamide in food is safe. Continuous exposure to such amount does not pose a cancer risk.

Hong Kong's Food and Environmental Hygiene Department has found generally low acrylamide levels in the most commonly consumed Asian food such as rice and rice products, noodles, bakery and butter-based products. Lower levels are found in flour- and corn-based crisps, while rice flour-based food have the lowest acrylamide level.

Highest content

But there are danger foods. The highest levels are found in biscuit-related products and crisps. Using WHO's drinking water guidelines, UK and US researchers discovered that potato chips have the highest acrylamide content: 500 times the maximum allowable amount. In fast-food chains, French fries are the worst culprit with 100 times the maximum allowable limit of acrylamide content.

How dangerous is the rice we eat every day considering that it is starch-based and carbohydrate-rich? A few days after the Swedish report appeared, the Food and Nutrition Research Institute published a position paper to calm fears on the exposure and risk of food, such as boiled rice, that have possible, but still unknown, acrylamide content. Boiled rice was found to be acrylamide-free. Rice only requires a maximum temperature of 100 degrees Celsius for boiling, and cooking with water prevents the bad chemical reactions from occurring.

The international science community considers acrylamide in food as a major health concern, and has established networks for further studies. The Japanese government has issued guidelines regarding acrylamide in food. Filipino scientists are aware of this issue, but we lack funding for a major scale project.

(R)evolution in the classroom

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

IN 1925 A HIGH SCHOOL BIOLOGY teacher named John Scopes stood trial in the state of Tennessee for teaching evolution, violating a state law prohibiting state-funded schools from teaching a theory that does not agree with the Bible's story of creation. Eighty years later, the debate continues to rage over whether or not creationism and evolution can and should share classroom time.

According to the theory of evolution, natural selection causes gradual biological changes at the molecular level over time, which can physically differentiate one generation of plants and animals from another. Many plant and animal species are actually descendants of previous generations that have adapted to environmental conditions.

Over the last year, several states within the United States have debated whether or not alternatives to the theory of evolution should be taught. One early alternative suggested was creationism.

Creationism argues that man is not descended from apes. Rather, based on the book of Genesis, the world and all living things were created in six days and man's appearance has not changed since the moment God set him on the earth.

Because of separation between church and state, the controversy generated by this suggestion has been so strong that some proponents of alternative theories have brought in a third option. This is the notion of intelligent design: the Bible's story of Creation is a great but untrue story. Life did not come to be in six days, but it is too complex to ignore the possibility of a cosmic force, usually called God, at work.

Vatican view

Last July, Cardinal Schönborn, the archbishop of Vienna and one considered fairly close to Pope Benedict XVI, distressed scientists all over the world when he wrote an editorial piece for the New York Times to correct the notion that the Vatican supported the theory of evolution, which, he said, wasn't fully compatible with Christian beliefs.

This notion, he said, appeared to have been based on statements by Pope John Paul II when he spoke before the Pontifical Academy of Sciences in 1996. At the time, the late pope noted that the evidence for the theory of evolution was mounting, suggesting that evolution was more than just a theory.

"Evolution in the sense of common ancestry might be true," Schönborn wrote, "but evolution in the neo-Darwinian sense—an unguided, unplanned process of random variation and natural selection—was not."

Schönborn also quoted statements by the current pope during his first homily after being elevated. "We are not some casual and meaningless product of evolution," the Pope said. "Each of us is the result of a thought of God. Each of us is willed, each of us is loved, each of us is necessary."

Scientists responded by writing directly to the Pope to clarify the Church's stand on the matter, which could affect the way science is taught in many Catholic schools by paving the way for intelligent design. They have as yet received no response.

Flying Spaghetti Monster

As advocates of evolution, creationism, and intelligent design continue to clash, a new theory has been making the rounds. Bobby Henderson, a physics graduate, wrote an open letter to the school boards of several states to remind them that in fairness, all theories of intelligent design should be taught in class.

His particular theory, albeit a parody, is that a Flying Spaghetti Monster created the universe. ("None of us, of course, were around to see it, but we have written accounts of it.")

The Pastafarian teachings, he notes, must be done by one dressed as a pirate. His website (www.venganza.org) includes an altered version of the section of the Sistine Chapel featuring God and Adam, except that Adam's finger touches the "noodly appendage" of an intelligent-looking tangled blob of spaghetti with two meatballs that seem to double as eyes.

Among the states to which Henderson addressed his letter were Tennessee and Pennsylvania, where 11 parents sued the Dover school board for requiring teachers to read a statement in biology class suggesting intelligent design as an alternative to the theory of evolution, although it is not taught as well.

The Dover trial is expected to conclude soon, and the outcome is sure to only add fuel to this already fiery debate. Granted 80 years is a long time to argue the matter, but resolving this issue, it seems, will not happen anytime soon.

Genes determine sweet dreams

GENEVA—HOW WELL YOU SLEEP could depend on who your parents were, researchers at Switzerland's Lausanne University reported after identifying for the first time a "normal sleep" gene among mice.

"The first lesson of our research is that the quality of sleep is genetically determined," said Mehdi Tafti, a professor at the university's Centre for Integrative Genomics.

The scientists used an electroencephalograph to study low-frequency brain waves among mice.

These so-called delta waves, the result of neuron activity, are telltales of the depth and quality of sleep.

"We realized that some mice slept less well because they lacked delta activity," Tafti said. "When we compared their genes with those of other mice, we localized the gene responsible for this difference."

The finger points at a gene that encodes cell receptor for retinoic acid.

Vitamin A, found in eggs, carrots and other orange or yellow vegetables, is known to act on this receptor.

Scientists already knew that vitamin A plays an important role in the brain, in respect of sight and in schizophrenia, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's—diseases accompanied by a lack of delta activity.

Too much is bad

Research on the mice found that too much vitamin A was bad for sleep, although the scientists are unsure what the results of a deficiency of the vitamin would be and what the ideal intake is. Too much vitamin A can damage health, especially among pregnant women.

In humans, delta activity diminishes with age, which is why children sleep deeply and awake refreshed, while old people usually sleep less well.

The study appeared in the US weekly journal Science.

Previous research has identified genes that can cause sleeplessness, but this is the first to identify a gene linked with normal sleep. *AFP*

Hot news: chili could help insomniacs

SYDNEY—EATING CHILI REGULARly could help people get a good night's sleep and keep their hearts healthy, an Australian university study has found.

Researchers at the University of Tasmania spent the past 18 months studying the potential health benefits of chili on a group of 10 volunteers, national radio reported recently.

Some in the group were given 15 grams of chili each day, while others did not have any. Dominic Geraghty, associate professor at the School of Life Sciences, said the results were promising.

"Chili consumption may improve your sleep and, of course, the quality of your sleep very much also influences your cardiovascular health," he said.

"Chili might be a neutroceutical, in other words a naturally occurring agent that we can just take on a daily basis in a small amount and it may actually benefit our cardiovascular health," he said. *AFP*

Everyday oral hygiene needed for healthy body

By Charles E. Buban

JUST AS THE EYES ARE THE WINdows to the soul, the mouth is the front door to the body. This according to Dr. Manuel Reyes Jr. of the Philippine Dental Association.

People, he said, should be vigilant about dental hygiene because the mouth is an ideal place where bacteria thrive.

"Ignoring cavities, gum disease and other problems can affect the health of the rest of your body because a number of these harmful bacteria are just a membrane away from entering the bloodstream and could cause some very serious problems," Reyes warned.

Reyes said a recent University of Minnesota study showed a link between periodontal disease (chronic infection of the gums) and a host of serious and sometimes life-threatening medical problems: from heart disease and stroke to diabetes and respiratory disease.

Researchers believe that by-products of some bacteria in the mouth may also trigger a chain of chemical events that cause swelling throughout the body, including the plaque lining the arteries, which when inflamed may form blood clots leading to heart attack or stroke.

"With these findings, it's important more than ever for people to take care of their mouth," said Reyes.

Brush, floss

"Good health starts with a healthy mouth. In most cases, periodontal disease can be prevented with a simple daily oral hygiene and regular professional care," said Reyes.

To keep gums healthy, brushing one's teeth as well as flossing after every meal is suggested.

"However a lot of people don't floss, which is the only way to remove plaque that collects in spaces between teeth that the toothbrush can't reach. [Many don't] even meet the recommended three minutes of brushing to loosen food particles on the surface and in between the teeth," he added.

He said the average time a person spends brushing is only between 30 seconds and 45 seconds.

"This is not enough, so dentists also suggest using mouthwash as a complement since it can reach practically every surface area in the oral cavity," said Reyes.

A good mouthwash, according to Reyes, must do two things: help dislodge food particles and cell debris while gargling or swishing and help reduce bacterial population to a very low level to maintain better oral hygiene.

In deciding which mouthwash to use, Reyes suggested it's always a good idea to look for those that are accepted by the American Dental Association and the Philippine Dental Association

Among the leading brands, Listerine, which contains four essential oils thymol, methyl salicylate, eucalyptol, and menthol is the only over-the-counter mouthwash to have received the ADA seal of approval for safety and efficacy in preventing plaque and gingivitis. It is also the first to be accepted by the PDA.

Moving on with Parkinson's

BOXING LEGEND MUHAMMAD ALI, ACtor Michael J. Fox and former US Attorney General Janet Reno are just three of the millions of people in the world today who suffer from Parkinson's disease.

And according to Medtronic, a medical technology firm based in the United States, this affliction affects Caucasians as well as Asians and can hit both men and women as early as 30 years old.

Parkinson's disease is, in fact, listed as one of two of the most dreaded neurodegenerative disorders in the world today (the other one is Alzheimer's). Its causes remain unknown and its cure is still to be discovered.

Parkinson's, its symptoms

In a nutshell, Parkinson's disease is a slowly progressive disorder that affects movement, muscle control, and balance. Its characteristic symptoms include involuntary trembling of the limbs, stiffness and rigidity of muscles, difficulty in balance, and bending or flexion of the body that cause disturbances in gait.

Experts say that it is often difficult to identify when the early signs and symptoms of Parkinson's disease occur.

Doctors advise patients to take note of the change in facial expression (which include staring or not blinking), inability to swing one arm when walking, a stooped posture, a "frozen" painful shoulder, limping or dragging one leg, numbness and aching in the neck or limbs, softness of the voice and internal trembling.

Other signs that one must look out for are depression (caused by chemical changes in the brain), dizzy spells and fainting (caused by a sudden drop in blood pressure), excessive sweating as well as cramps and burning sensations in the legs.

Factors triggering the symptoms

According to Medtronic, the appearance of the major symptoms of Parkinson's disease is due to abnormalities in the *substantia nigra*, a nucleus deep within the brain.

In Parkinson's disease, cells in this structure die and stop producing dopamine, a chemical essential for controlling normal movement and muscle function. Loss of dopamine negatively affects the nerves and muscles controlling movement and coordination, which then result in the major symptoms characteristics of Parkinson's disease.

Available control therapies

There are currently two available control therapies for Parkinson's. While they do not cure, they produce benefits for those who suffer the disorder.

One is through medication. Levodopa or L-dopa, which has been used for years, is converted to dopamine to augment the failing levels of the chemical in the brain.

Then there's the Activa System Parkinson's control therapy. This is a deep brain stimulation technique that involves the positioning of electrodes in the brain to suppress Parkinson's symptoms like tremor, rigidity, slowness or lack of movement, and poor balance. This procedure is currently available in the country through the Philippine Movement Disorder Surgery Center at the Cardinal Santos Medical Center.

Taking Parkinson's seriously

While Parkinson's disease is not fatal, it may lead to severe incapacity, which would then result in a drastic change in lifestyle for both the disease sufferer and his or her family.

For more information about the Activa control therapy, please call the Philippine Movement Disorder Surgery Center at (632) 726-0776 or 727-7653 (facsimile).

In-flight emergency a doctor's nightmare

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

(First of 2 parts)

MEDICAL FILES

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS—HANDLING AN INflight emergency is one of the things I don't look forward to during long-haul travels. With hardly anything to rely on to diagnose problematic cases accurately, a physician or paramedic will just have to use his/her clinical instincts to find out what's wrong with the ill passenger and institute whatever treatment is available on board.

During our Northwest flight from Narita to Minneapolis on the way here, my wife woke me up when they paged for a doctor to proceed to the back cabin. There must be several other doctors in the plane, I told myself and shifted to the other side of my seat, trying to catch up on sleep. But they repeated the paging, and my conscience nudged me and made me go to the back cabin. Another Filipino doctor, Elizabeth Cabrera-Morales, who practices at the Asian Hospital, also responded to the call.

Passenger in shock

We were confronted with a 72-year-old Japanese woman who was noted to be disoriented shortly before she collapsed. She hit her head on the door of the toilet as she fell to the floor. She was half-conscious when we got to her.

In the dimly lit cabin, she looked pale. She was cold and clammy by touch. Her pulse was feeble. Dr. Morales took her blood pressure and she couldn't hear any BP sound. She tried to take it again by just feeling the patient's pulse; it was only 60-70 mm Hg with a barely palpable pulse. The passenger was in shock.

The ill passenger was not in any position to offer us any additional information. The tour leader (the passenger was part of a group of 35 Japanese tourists) was not familiar with the medical history of the patient.

IS THERE A DOCTOR ON THE PLANE?
AGR

Was the passenger having a heart attack or a stroke? Was she bleeding internally, causing the shock? Did she injure her brain when she fell, causing intracerebral hemorrhage (bleeding in the brain)? Was she a diabetic who took her pills and missed her meals, hence went into hypoglycemia (low blood sugar)? Was she taking any medication which caused the marked drop in her blood pressure? Was she just severely dehydrated?

The spectrum of possibilities was wide and there was no way of finding out for sure. We were alarmed because the patient was 72 and was in shock. Her tongue was quite dry and her neck veins were flat. These suggested that she lacked blood volume, impairing the circulation. But we didn't know what the exact cause was.

Leg elevation

We lay her flat on the floor and elevated her legs to improve the blood volume going back to the heart. (Leg elevation considerably improves the circulation in a shocky patient.)

It was good there was a bag of intravenous fluid in the plane's emergency bag and Dr. Morales quickly inserted an intravenous catheter. We ran the IV fluid fast drip.

With still two-and-a-half hours to go before we reached Minneapolis, the captain wanted to know if he had to divert the flight and land in the nearest airport. I said that if the passenger did not improve in 15 minutes, we would have to.

With the fluid resuscitation though, the patient improved dramatically. She became fully conscious. Her pulse became stronger. Her blood pressure stabilized at 110/70 mm Hg.

In Dr. Morales' and my evaluation, there was no need to make an emergency landing elsewhere and we advised the captain to have some paramedics ready at the airport. Upon landing in Minneapolis, they promptly took over.

Dr. Morales and I were so relieved that nothing happened to the patient. Had the patient seriously deteriorated in-flight, would they have blamed us for deciding not to make an emergency landing at the nearest airport so the patient could be attended to more adequately with life-saving devices and medicines?

It was a judgment call. And I'm glad Dr. Morales supported my decision.

While queuing at immigration, a passenger joked that we advised the pilot not to divert the plane so we wouldn't miss our connecting flights. I didn't dignify that joke with a reaction. Deep inside though, I was boiling. No wonder, many doctors don't identify themselves as such and volunteer in case of an in-flight emergency.

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Avon, surgeons group join forces vs breast cancer

AVON, THE LEADING DIRECT-SELLING company and the largest corporate advocate of the breast cancer cause, has found a partner in the Philippine College of Surgeons as it gears up for this year's campaign against the dreaded disease.

The Philippine College of Surgeons has pledged support for the "Avon Walk Around the World for Breast Cancer," a 3K noncompetitive fun walk slated on Oct. 16 in Davao City and Oct. 23 in Manila. The Cebu event was held on Oct. 2. The fun walk is open to men and women of all ages and fitness levels.

Funds raised from the three events amounting to a minimum of P500,000 up to P1 million will be matched by Avon Foundation for the benefit of the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center, Davao Medical Center and the PGH Breast Care Center.

Interested participants may visit the Avon Davao branch on C.M. Recto Blvd., Davao City.

For Metro Manila participants, call Faith Aranton or Olen Jalandoni of Avon Marketing PR at 864-2670 to 73. You may also visit Avon Boutiques in SM Megamall and Glorietta.

Free clinic at San Juan de Dios

THE PHYSICAL REHABILITATION AND Sports Medicine Section of San Juan de Dios Hospital will conduct a free clinic on Oct. 21 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The free clinic will include consultations (for stroke, arthritis, neck, back, knee pain), starter doses of prescribed medicines, physical and occupational therapy and peripheral bone scan (8-11 a.m., patients aged 40 and above). For inquiries, call 831-9731 local 1122-1123 and look for Bob, Daisy or Maureen.

HEART WATCH

Dual Inhibition: A battle of two against two

There are two main sources of the cholesterol in your body - your liver and your diet. The former is responsible for producing cholesterol that your body needs for its processes while the latter affects your present cholesterol levels depending on the type of food you ingest.

Since the body only needs a small amount of cholesterol, anything that isn't utilized will contribute to plaque build up in arteries, increasing the risk of coronary heart disease (CHD).

How do you avoid the negative effects of high cholesterol levels, particularly low-density lipoprotein or bad cholesterol?

Two separate studies have proven the success of statins in inhibiting cholesterol production in the liver. Both studies made use of Simvastatin at a maximum dose of 40mg. The Scandinavian Simvastatin Survival Study in 1994 showed a bad cholesterol reduction of 35% resulting in a 42% drop in mortality due to CHD. In 2002, the Medical Research Council of the British Heart Foundation conducted the Heart Protection Study with 20,500 subjects at high risk for CHD. Results showed reductions of 18% in coronary death rate, 38% in the first non-fatal heart attack and 25% in the incidence of the first stroke. It also concluded that regardless of age, gender or baseline cholesterol value, Simvastatin was beneficial, proving effective, safe and well tolerated.

However, these studies also cite the limits of statin tolerability that vary for each individual because of possible adverse effects like abnormal liver function. For some, a 24% reduction in bad cholesterol level needs an 80mg dose which may not be good for the liver.

Fortunately, there is another way and, working with a statin, it may be the most practical drug solution around. Schering-Plough recently introduced Ezetimibe, which inhibits intestinal absorption of cholesterol without affecting the absorption of triglycerides, bile acids or fat-soluble vitamins at a dose of just 10mg. This drug can be used alone resulting in reductions of 17-18% in bad cholesterol level.

The implication of this is very simple: with a 10mg dose of your present statin along with 10mg of Ezetimibe, you can achieve the same result as the full dose of just the statin without risking any adverse liver effects.

And since there are two sources of bad cholesterol, it makes sense to attack the problem using this two-pronged approach.

With this in mind, Schering-Plough has also formulated a two-in-one medication combining Ezetimibe and simvastatin. This new drug provides a dual inhibition mechanism that targets excess cholesterol in the liver and the intestinal tract, making your drug therapy simpler.

Consult your doctor now to learn more about cholesterol management through dual inhibition.

A public service message from Schering-Plough

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02 LANCER GLS 1.6L A/T 1st Own Casa-Maintained 0917-801-2260 or 931-2294 or 716-1778 P393T

LANCER A/T 250K 4260489

NISSAN

X-TRAIL 100,000 DP BNEW 1.3GX MT OR AT 50,000 DP 1.6GS AT 60,000 DP NEW ESCAPADE 165,000 DP CONTACT 0917 8031611

TOYOTA

PAJERO Exceed09266911125

Schools First Means Students First

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

PROCUREMENT SERVICE
5th Floor. Mabini Bldg. DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City
Telephone Nos. 636-65-43; Telefax No. 6366542, 633-93-43
Website: http://www.DepED.gov.ph; Email: deped_procurementservice@yahoo.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID (RE-BID)

The **Department Of Education Division Office**, through its Division Bids and Awards Committees (BAC's), invites suppliers/ manufacturers/ distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

NAME OF PROJECT	:	Supply and Delivery of Elementary Tables & Chairs and Secondary Armchairs
LOCATION	:	Various Division Offices of the Department of Education
BRIEF DESCRIPTION	:	Lot A : Elementary Tables & Chairs (CY2004) Lot B: Secondary Armchairs (CY2004) Lot C: Elementary Tables & Chairs (CY2005) Lot D: Secondary Armchairs (CY2005)
ABC & FUNDING SOURCE	:	Funding Source is the Government of the Philippines (GOP), CY2004 and CY2005 General Appropriations Act (GAA) (75% Allocation)
CONTRACT DURATION	:	One Hundred Twenty (120) Calendar Days
DELIVERY SITES	:	"Door to door" delivery to various recipient schools (See Schedule of Requirements of the Bidding Documents)

PROCURING ENTITY		APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)							
		CY 2004				CY 2005			
DepED Division Office	Address (See Deped Website for details)	Lot A (Elem. Tables and Chairs)		Lot B (Secondary Armchairs)		Lot C (Elem. Tables and Chairs)		Lot D (Secondary Armchairs)	
		Qty	Amount	Qty	Amount	Qty	Amount	Qty	Amount
REGION I		718	861,600.00	923	507,650.00	1256	1,507,200.00	1955	1,075,250.00
1 ILOCOS NORTE	Laoag City, Ilocos Norte	543	651,600.00	791	435,050.00	1056	1,267,200.00	1533	843,150.002
2 LAOAG CITY	Laoag City, Ilocos Norte	175	210,000.00	132	72,600.00	200	240,000.00	422	232,100.00
REGION II		720	864,000.00	546	300,300.00	1,190	1,428,000.00	2,067	1,136,850.00
1 NUEVA VIZCAYA	Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya	720	864,000.00	546	300,300.00	1,190	1,428,000.00	2,067	1,136,850.00
REGION III		1106	1,327,200.00	1712	941,600.00	1816	2,179,200.00	5823	3,202,650.00
1 BALANGA CITY	Balanga, Bataan	-	-	-	-	135	162,000.00	298	163,900.00
2 ZAMBALES	Iba, Zambales	554	664,800.00	1712	941,600.00	1406	1,687,200.00	4023	2,212,650.00
3 OLONGAPO CITY	Olongapo City	552	662,400.00	-	-	275	330,000.00	1502	826,100.00
REGION IV-A		90	108,000.00	2,215	1,218,250.00	1,125	1,350,000.00	1,719	945,450.00
1 LIPA CITY	Lipa City	90	108,000.00	1063	584,650.00	90	108,000.00	1719	945,450.00
2 LUCENA CITY	Lucena City		-	1152	633,600.00	1035	1,242,000.00	-	-
REGION IV-B		2069	2,181,800.00	2872	1,376,412.00	6685	6,967,550.00	2825	1,360,279.00
1 ORIENTAL MINDORO	Calapan, Or. Mindoro	1720	1,763,000.00	2572	1,211,412.00	6094	6,246,350.00	2449	1,153,479.00
2 CALAPAN CITY	Calapan, Or. Mindoro	349	418,800.00	300	165,000.00	601	721,200.00	376	206,800.00
3 PALAWAN	Puerto Princesa City	1667	2,000,400.00	2088	1,148,400.00	6350	7,620,000.00	4434	2,438,700.00
REGION V		5385	6,462,000.00	8829	4,855,950.00	14584	17,500,800.00	16420	9,031,000.00
1 TABACO CITY	Tabaco City, Albay	323	387,600.00	352	193,600.00	480	576,000.00	444	244,200.00
2 LEGASPI CITY	Legaspi City, Albay	300	360,000.00	349	191,950.00	658	789,600.00	626	344,300.00
3 LIGAO CITY	Ligao City	327	392,400.00	331	182,050.00	559	670,800.00	458	251,900.00
4 CAMARINES SUR	Naga City	2861	3,433,200.00	5680	3,124,000.00	9616	11,539,200.00	11257	6,191,350.00
5 NAGA CITY	Naga City	174	208,800.00	564	310,200.00	469	562,800.00	521	286,550.00
6 IRIGA CITY	Iriga City	215	258,000.00	150	82,500.00	331	397,200.00	283	155,650.00
7 CATANDUANES	Virac, Catanduanes	580	696,000.00	649	356,950.00	1525	1,830,000.00	1797	988,350.00
8 MASBATE CITY	Masbate City, Masbate	300	360,000.00	289	158,950.00	520	624,000.00	544	299,200.00
9 SORSOGON CITY	Sorsogon City, Sorsogon	305	366,000.00	465	255,750.00	426	511,200.00	490	269,500.00
REGION VI		4,336	5,681,150.00	6,954	3,824,700.00	8,564	10,276,800.00	12,730	7,001,500.00
1 AKLAN	Kalibo, Aklan	605	1,203,950.00	1,674	920,700.00	2,970	3,564,000.00		-
2 ROXAS CITY	Roxas City, Capiz	315	378,000.00	83	45,650.00	557	668,400.00	120	66,000.00
3 NEGROS OCCIDENTAL	Bacolod City, Negros Occ.	2530	3,036,000.00	4727	2,599,850.00	4588	5,505,600.00	10344	5,689,200.00
4 BAGO CITY	Bago City	250	300,000.00	470	258,500.00	215	258,000.00	981	539,550.00
5 KABANKALAN CITY	Kabankalan City	636	763,200.00		-	234	280,800.00	1285	706,750.00
REGION VII		7,257	8,439,560.00	13,728	6,649,877.60	17,547	20,478,680.00	31,736	15,141,100.40
1 BOHOL	Tagbilaran City	1,211	1,453,200.00	6,009	2,704,050.00	2,909	3,490,800.00	14,416	6,487,200.00
2 CEBU	Cebu City	3,602	4,322,400.00	5,287	2,907,850.00	9,386	11,263,200.00	10,242	5,633,100.00
3 NEGROS ORIENTAL	Dumaguete City	2,444	2,663,960.00	2,432	1,037,977.60	5,252	5,724,680.00	7,078	3,020,890.40
REGION VIII		4,960	5,952,640.00	1,260	694,050.00	11,565	13,856,332.00	4,294	2,348,450.00
1 LEYTE	Tacloban City	2,711	3,253,200.00	-	-	6,665	7,998,000.00	-	-
2 SOUTHERN LEYTE	Maasin, Southern Leyte	574	688,800.00	-	-	613	735,600.00	-	-
3 MAASIN CITY	Maasin, Southern Leyte	-	-	-	-	234	257,400.00	300	150,000.00
4 NORTHERN SAMAR	Catarman, Northern Samar	1,388	1,665,600.00	1,035	569,250.00	3,465	4,158,000.00	3,619	1,990,450.00
5 CALBAYOG CITY	Calbayog City	287	345,040.00	225	124,800.00	588	707,332.00	375	208,000.00
REGION IX		412	461,400.00	371	204,050.00	680	764,000.00	429	235,950.00
1 ISABELA CITY	Isabela City	330	363,000.00	189	103,950.00	520	572,000.00	85	46,750.00
2 DAPITAN CITY	Dapitan City	82	98,400.00	182	100,100.00	160	192,000.00	344	189,200.00
REGION XI		6397	7,657,162.40	7517	4,134,350.00	13889	16,592,825.00	17097	9,403,350.00
1 COMPOSTELA VALLEY		1200	1,440,000.00	2271	1,249,050.00	3810	4,572,000.00	2999	1,649,450.00
2 DAVAO DEL NORTE	Tagum City, Davao	1317	1,580,400.00	1124	618,200.00	2897	3,476,400.00	2259	1,242,450.00
3 TAGUM CITY	Tagum City, Davao	400	480,000.00	630	346,500.00	680	816,000.00	573	315,150.00
4 PANABO CITY	Panabo City	457	548,400.00	453	249,150.00	635	762,000.00	627	344,850.00
5 IGACOS (SAMAL)	Samal	-	-	-	-	160	165,600.00	303	166,650.00
6 DAVAO DEL SUR	Digos, Davao del Sur	1112	1,315,162.40	2391	1,315,050.00	2750	3,252,425.00	5923	3,257,650.00
7 DIGOS CITY	Digos City	565	678,000.00	300	165,000.00	970	1,164,000.00	400	220,000.00
8 DAVAO ORIENTAL	Mati, Davao Oriental	1346	1,615,200.00	348	191,400.00	1987	2,384,400.00	4013	2,207,150.00
REGION XII		7450	8,940,000.00	4149	2,281,950.00	15375	18,450,000.00	7475	4,111,250.00
1 COTABATO	Kidapawan City, Cotabato	3131	3,757,200.00	1401	770,550.00	7992	9,590,400.00	1566	861,300.00
2 KIDAPAWAN CITY	Kidapawan City, Cotabato	212	254,400.00	205	112,750.00	273	327,600.00	421	231,550.00
4 GENERAL SANTOS CITY	Gen Santos City	1100	1,320,000.00	998	548,900.00	1225	1,470,000.00		-
5 KORONADAL CITY	Koronadal City, South Cotabato	350	420,000.00		-	400	480,000.00		-
6 SULTAN KUDARAT	Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat	2457	2,948,400.00	483	265,650.00	4139	4,966,800.00	4198	2,308,900.00
7. TACURONG CITY	Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat	-	-	-	-	561	673,200.00	644	354,200.00
8 COTABATO CITY	Cotabato City	200	240,000.00	1062	584,100.00	785	942,000.00	646	355,300.00
CORDILLERA ADMIN. REG. (CAR)		632	758,400.00	1437	790,350.00	1055	1,266,000.00	1477	812,350.00
1 ABRA	Bangued, Abra	360	432,000.00	354	194,700.00	440	528,000.00	1477	812,350.00
2 BAGUIO CITY	Baguio City	272	326,400.00	1083	595,650.00	615	738,000.00		-
GRAND TOTAL —		42365.5	50,695,112.40	53557	28,353,689.60	98516	116,427,387.00	108264	57,024,869.40

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184 known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stocks belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II, Instruction to Bidders of the Bidding Documents.

The **DepED Division Office** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all prospective bidders on **October 28, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at the Division Office.**

Bids must be received on or before **November 10, 2005, 10:00 a.m.** at the **Division Office.** Late Bids shall be rejected.

Bids in excess of the Approved Budget for the Contract per Lot shall be rejected.

Bid Documents will be available to **prospective bidders** upon payment of a non-refundable amount of not more than **Two Thousand Pesos Only (Php2,000.00)** to the Division Office's Cashier.

The Department of Education, reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) CAMILO MIGUEL M. MONTESA
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

Date of Publication : October 15 & 22, 2005
Newspaper : Philippine Daily Inquirer

Schools First Means Students First

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Pajero Safari Surf Largo Serena Delica RVR Estima Tropper Fargo Canter Elf etc. Finance T-In 9120647

MOTORCYCLE

2000 KMX 125 Kawasaki Set up P65T Call 09167027601

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Affordable Rent a Car Hiace, Vios, Corolla Low Rates 0920-9518097

CarsVans CoasterBus 422-9296

CAR/VAN 4144534 Udrive OK

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L300/Vans 578-8917 (Roger)

P800/L3 9136710 / 4333682

REVO w/driver 9272821

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TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

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CAR LOAN

1% Auto Easy 5344441

1% AUTOLOAN 788-0361

1% Car Lending 656-0140 United Tree Car Loan Corp.

1% CARLOAN 373-6519

1% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

1% w/o taking car 7880183-84

1% w/out taking car 5315577

1% w/out taking car 7262780

1.5% ABC Car Line 5221001

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/o taking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

Department of Transportation and Communications
PUNONG HIMPILAN TANOD BAYBAYIN NG PILIPINAS
(Headquarters Philippine Coast Guard)
139 25th Street, Port Area
1018 Manila

HPCG/CG-10
MEMORANDUM-CIRCULAR
NUMBER 01- 05

RULES AND REGULATIONS PRESCRIBING THE ESTABLISHMENT, ADMINISTRATION, OPERATION, AND MAINTENANCE OF PRIVATE AIDS TO NAVIGATION

I. AUTHORITY:

A. Section 1 (C) & 3 (1), 5 and 6 of RA No. 5173 otherwise known as the **"COAST GUARD LAW"**.

B. P.D. 601

II. SCOPE:

This Memorandum-Circular applies to all aids to navigation, regulatory markings, obstruction buoys or beacons owned and/ or maintained by private parties, associations and other government agencies (such as the Cebu Port Authority and Philippine Ports Authority), established/ installed in navigable waters of the Philippines.

III. PURPOSE:

To prescribe the rules and regulations for the establishment, administration, operations, and maintenance of private aids to navigation in navigable waters in the Philippines.

IV. DEFINITIONS OF TERMS:

A. **Aids to Navigation** — means any device external to a vessel or aircraft designed/intended to assist a navigator to determine his position or safe course or to warn him of danger or obstruction to navigation.

B. **Private Aids to Navigation** — an aid to navigation authorized by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) but established, administered, operated and maintained by private parties, associations and other government agencies, to include the Philippine Ports Authority, in the navigable waters in the Philippines.

C. **Navigable Waters** — the term navigable waters, singular or plural means waters navigable in fact which itself, or by uniting with other waters, navigable in long forms a continuous highway over which inter-island or international commerce may be conducted in the customary mode of trade and travel on waters.

D. **Lateral System** — A system of aids to navigation in which buoys, day beacons and minor lights marking navigable channels are assigned colors and numbers in geographical sequence and in accordance with their respective locations in relation to the channel. The Philippines which belongs to Region B of the International Maritime Buoyage System prescribes the color green for buoys and markers on the port side of the channel and red on the starboard, when entering port. (Additional, detailed information may be found in the International Association of Lighthouse Authorities (IALA) handbook of the Maritime Buoyage System.)

E. **Cardinal Marks** — a system of marking according to the four cardinal quadrants, (N.E.S.W.) of the compass to indicate which side of the mark lies the deepest water and which is the safe side to pass or a feature in the channel – a junction, or bifurcation, or end of the shoal.

F. **General Navigation** — navigable area, route and/ or harbor commonly utilized by all kinds of watercraft, vessels or ships.

V. GENERAL PROVISIONS:

A. No person, public body, or instrumentality shall establish any aid to maritime navigation without first obtaining permission from the Commandant, PCG.

B. No persons, public body or instrumentality shall operate any aids to navigation without first registering the same with the PCG. All private aids to navigation shall be continuously operated without prejudice to liabilities that may be charged to the owner as a result of its malfunction.

C. Private ports, and harbors shall conform with public standards in the establishment and operation of navigational aids.

D. All ports under the jurisdiction of local government units, the Philippine Ports Authority and other port authorities shall conform to public standards set by the PCG.

E. Coast Guard authorization for the establishment and maintenance of a private aid to navigation does not authorize any invasion of private rights, nor grant exclusive privilege, nor authorize the levying of charges by private individuals or entities nor does it obviate the necessity of complying with any national or local laws or regulations.

F. Operation of electronic aids to navigation as private aids will not be authorized except for shore based radar stations.

G. No person shall obstruct or interfere with any aid to navigation established and maintained by the Coast Guard or any private aid to navigation established and maintained in accordance with Coast Guard regulations.

H. No persons shall take possession of or make use for any purpose, or build upon, alter, deface, destroy, move, injure, obstruct by fastening vessels thereto or otherwise or in manner whatsoever that will impair the usefulness of any aid to navigation established and maintained by the Philippine Coast Guard or any private aid to navigation established and maintained in accordance with Coast Guard regulations.

VI. PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT:

A. Applications to establish private aids to navigation shall be made in three (3) copies to the Commandant, PCG thru the Commander of the Coast Guard District with the following information:

1. The necessity/importance for the aid.
2. The proposed position of the aids to navigation by two or more horizontal angles, or bearings and distances from chartered landmarks.
3. A section of the chart or sketch showing the proposed location of the aid to navigation shall be included.
4. For lights: the color, characteristics, height above water, luminous and nominal range, description of illuminating apparatus.
5. For buoys or day beacons: shape, size, color, number or letter, depth of water in which located and height above water.
6. Material specifications and drawings of the structure upon which the light shall be installed.

B. The PCG shall review, evaluate, assess and approve said application if found to be in compliance with relevant regulations.

C. The PCG approval shall be the basis for the proponent to commence the construction, erection or establishment of the aids to navigation.

D. The PCG shall, during the construction conduct inspections to ensure adherence to the approved plan.

E. The completion of the construction/establishment shall be reported officially to the PCG and in writing as soon as possible.

F. Upon completion, the PCG shall establish the exact position of every aid to navigation installed for immediate and subsequent issuance of Notice to Mariners.

G. The PCG shall likewise report the new aids to navigation to NAMRIA for publication/inclusion in all charts.

VII. REGISTRATION

A. The report of completion as maintained in Para IV-E above shall cause the PCG to register the private aids to navigation sequentially in order of date of completion and included in the PCG inventory upon payment of the following fees:

1. Application Fee – P1,000.00
2. Registration Fee
   a) Unlighted Buoy – 3,000.00
   b) Lighted Buoy – 5,000.00
   c) Beacon – 7,500.00

B. A certificate of aids to navigation (ATON) registration shall be issued thereafter.

VIII. OPERATION OF PRIVATE AIDS TO NAVIGATION:

A. All private aids to navigation shall be operated continuously at all times, specification/characteristics as approved by the PCG.

B. All private aids to navigation shall at all times conform to the characteristics/ specifications as approved by the PCG.

C. All private aids to navigation shall be operated at the expense of its registered owner.

D. Any temporary change or alteration shall be immediately reported to the PCG.

E. Any stoppage in operation shall likewise be reported to the PCG as soon as possible.

IX. MAINTENANCE

A. All private aids to navigation shall be maintained to ensure continuous operation at all times.

B. PCG shall conduct inspections periodically to ensure continuous operation of all aids to navigation.

X. PERIODIC INSPECTION:

A. The PCG shall conduct yearly inspection of all private aids to navigation to ensure compliance with the standards of operation and level of upkeep and maintenance.

B. A yearly ATON inspection certificate shall be issued to all aids to navigation upon payment of corresponding fee.

C. The PCG may conduct random inspection as the need arises as result of reported malfunction due to any cause such as vandalism, poor maintenance, etc.

XI. PENALTY CLAUSE:

A. The registered owner shall pay a fine of P50,000.00 for violation of Para VIII-A of this Memo-Circular.

B. The registered owner shall pay a fine of P30,000.00 for violation of Para VIII-B of this Memo-Circular.

C. The registered owner shall pay a fine of P25,000.00 for violation of Para VIII-D of this Memo-Circular.

D. The registered owner shall pay a fine of P10,000.00 for failure to report non-operating aids to navigation in violation of Para VIII-E.

E. The registered owner shall pay a fine of P1,000.00 thereafter for each succeeding day of continued of Para VIII-A and VIII-B of this Memo-Circular.

F. The registered owner shall pay a fine of P20,000.00 for violation of Para V-A of this Memo-Circular.

G. The registered owner shall pay a fine of P30,000.00 for violation of Para VIII-B of this Memo-Circular.

H. The registered owner shall ay a fine of P50,000.00 for violation of Para V-G this Memo-Circular.

I. The registered owner shall pay a fine of P100,000.00 for violation of Para V-H of this Memo-Circular.

XII. RECESSION CLAUSE:

All memorandum circulars inconsistent with this Memorandum Circular are hereby rescinded.

XIII. EFFECTIVITY:

This Memorandum-Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication once in a newspaper of general circulation.

ARTHUR N GOSINGAN
VADM PCG

(PDI - Oct. 15, 2005)

Manila Water

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

MARCELO M. BELINGON

This is to inform the public that the above named person has resigned/is no longer connected with Manila Water Company, Inc. (MWCI), effective August 1, 2005.

Any transaction made or entered into with Mr. Belingon after August 1, 2005 shall no longer be honored by MWCI.

(PDI - Oct. 15, 2005)

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

CAR LOAN
FINANCING & RE-FINANCING
894-3624 / 817-4885

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

Sale/Rental/Servce 8014494 0464771344 09179870097

FIGHTING COCK

Chicks Hens Stags 952-9697

PETS

DOG TRAINER 0919-7219020

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

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ROLEX+OTHERS
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DIAMONDS / JEWELRY
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SWISS WATCH LOANS
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WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
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5633742 0917-8473744

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
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7220433 • 4123543

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop Inc. #7611 Caeg Bldg., dela Rosa St., Makati City; #602 JP Rizal St. Makati City; #15 Gen Santos Ave., Lower Bicutan Taguig; Real St. Almanza Uno Las Pinas City will hold an Auction Sale on October 22, 2005 at 9:00 AM. Including all items pawned up to May 2005 V. Zamora Jr. Lic. Auctioneer

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Buy/Invest California Forclosures MrNelsonmanila@AOL.com 12%/mo

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RETIRE 2YRS 09189051567

RTW CONSIGN 0917-8830002

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
(Head Office)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites interested **general building** and **general engineering** contractors with current Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) License to apply for eligibility and to bid and if later found eligible, to bid for the project described below:

Project Title	:	**Proposed Cleaning, Repair and Application of Water-Repellent Coating and Resealing of Pre-cast Joints at the Exterior Façade of the Buildings at the BSP Main Complex.**
Scope of Work	:	Furnishing of all materials, labor, tools, equipment, technical supervision and other services and performing all operations necessary for the completion of the proposed **cleaning, repair and application of water-repellent coating and repealing of pre-cast joints at the exterior façade of the buildings at the BSP Main Complex** all in accordance with the approved plans and specifications and subject to the terms and conditions of the contract.
Project Location	:	A. Mabini cor. P. Ocampo Sts., Manila
Approved Budget	:	Fifteen Million Seven Hundred Thousand Pesos (P15,700,000.00)
Source of Funding	:	BSP Building Improvement – Head Office
Contract Duration	:	90 calendar days
Minimum Requirement (Criteria)		
PCAB License	:	Registration Particulars of at least "Medium A" (Building & Industrial Plant or Waterproofing)
Contractor's Construction Experience	:	The contractor and/or its sub-contractor should have completed at least one (1) project with high rise building application involving not less than 5 storey high or total accumulated area of not less than 5,000 square meter of the same or similar project masonry finish costing not less than seven million eight hundred fifty thousand pesos (P7,850,000.00) In case of a joint venture, submission of a valid joint venture agreement including the special PCAB license is required. The joint venture most have previously completed at least two (2) similar construction projects involving similar magnitude as the proposed BSP project.
Certification of Satisfactory Performance	:	Should be able to submit certificates of satisfactory performance from the client of the declared completed similar projects. For those contractors who have previously done / completed BSP project/s, the certificate/s of satisfactory performance issued by the Bank for said project/s must be submitted.

(PDI – October 15, 2005)

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Pasig City.

For inquiries call
Lucille
0917-8013384

Republic of the Philippines
Center for Health Development 4
BATANGAS REGIONAL HOSPITAL
(Training & Teaching)
Batangas City

October 4, 2005

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR PREQUALIFICATION / ELIGIBILITY SCREENING AND TO BID PROPOSED INTENSIVE CARE UNIT OF THE BATANGAS REGIONAL HOSPITAL

The Batangas Regional Hospital through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) is inviting bids from accredited contractors of Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) with minimum license category "B" and registration of "Medium A" for Building and Industrial Plan for the project Proposed Intensive Care Unit.

The dates to be followed are:

1	Submission of Letter of Intent, PCAB License and Registration (Bring original copies of Contractors License)	October 22-29, 2005
2	Submission of Duly accomplished eligibility documents	November 5-8, 2005
3	Posting eligible contractors	November 15, 2005
4	Issuance of Bid Documents	November 16-21, 2005
5	Pre-Bid Conference	November 29, 2005 9:00 A.M. conference room
6	Deadline of submission of Bids/Opening of Bids	December 12, 2005 9:00 A.M. Conference Room

The complete set of bid documents may be purchased by the interested eligible bidders upon payment of non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Pesos (PhP3,000.00) only.

The BRH/BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by BRH/BAC is the most advantageous to the government.

The BRH/BAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of Bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

The Approved Budget Cost (ABC) for the project is PhP8 million.

(Sgd.) ARCELI S. HERNANDEZ, M.D., FPCP, MHA
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI-October 8 & 15, 2005)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P., Diliman, Quezon City
TIN 0000-784-336

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) through its Bidding and Awards Commitee (BAC) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of:

UREA FERTILIZER
Commercial Grade - 46-0-0
"PRILLED" Type
Packed in 50-kilo bags lined with plastic
For Sugar-ACEF Related Projects
To be delivered to BAIS-URSUMCO, Luca Port, Tanjay, Negros Oriental
Approved Budget for the Contract - Php 22,929,850.00

Schedule of Bidding Activities

Issuance of Eligibility & Bidding Documents	October 10-24, 2005 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. SRA Bidding Secretariat 3rd Floor, Annex Building Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City for a non-refundable fee of Php 2,000.00
Pre-Bid Conference	November 9, 2005 9:00 a.m. Training Room, Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Submission & Opening of Eligibility & Bid Envelopes	November 23, 2005 9:00 a.m. Training Room, Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

For particulars, please contact:

The Bidding Secretariat - Telephone No. 929-6837

All particulars relative to the Eligibility, Bid bond, Pre-bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contracts shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and other applicable government rules and regulations.

The SRA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bids.

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein or accept any bid(s) or offer(s) which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

(Sgd.) JAMES C. LEDESMA
Administrator

(PDI - Oct. 8 & 15, 2005)

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Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

TISHA

INFINITELY LOVED AND REMEMBERED
(14 August 1957 – 15 October 1994)

HOLY MASSES FOR TISHA WILL BE OFFERED TODAY, OCTOBER 15, 2005 ON THE 11TH ANNIVERSARY OF HER PASSING, AT THE FOLLOWING CHURCHES:

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHEDRAL *Pasig City*	5:00 AM
SACRED HEART PARISH CHURCH *Kamuning, Q.C.*	5:15 AM
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH CHURCH *Lantana Street, Q.C.*	5:30 AM
ST. JOSEPH'S CONVENT OF PERPETUAL ADORATION *M. Hemady cor. 11th St., New Manila, Q.C.*	6:00 AM
ST. JUDE SHRINE *JP Laurel St., San Miguel, Manila*	6:30 AM
NAT'L SHRINE OF ST. MICHAEL AND THE ARCHANGELS *Solano Sr., San Miguel, Manila*	7:00 AM
STO. NIÑO PARISH CHURCH *Tondo, Manila*	7:00 AM
SANTISSIMO ROSARIO PARISH CHURCH *UST, España, Manila*	7:00 AM
SAN MARTIN DE PORRES CHAPEL *P. Galvan - L. Guinto St., Malate, Manila*	12:00 NN
SANTO DOMINGO CHURCH *Quezon City*	12:15 PM
MARY THE QUEEN PARISH CHURCH *Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila*	7:00 AM, 6:00 PM
OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL SHRINE *New Manila, Q.C.*	6:00 PM
SAN SEBASTIAN CHURCH *Plaza Del Carmen, Quiapo, Manila*	6:00 PM
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE *Greenhills, Mandaluyong, Metro Manila*	6:15 PM

Col. Jose B. Martinez (Ret.)

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on October 10, 2005.

He is survived by his mother **Elena**, wife **Cora**, children **Jontie**, **Renvi** and **Gae**; **Tina** and **Dickie**, **Nicky**, grandchildren **Luis**, **Ianna**, **Pia**, **Zach** and **Issa**, brothers and sisters **Nestor**, **Carlos**, **Linda**, and **Tess**.

His remains lie in state at the Nacional Memorial Homes, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, October 16, 2005 at the Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass officiated by Rev. Fr. Renato Y. Ruelos, C.M.

We design obituary for free.

SERGIO O. BATA

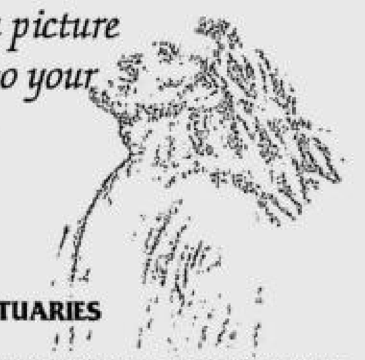
Peacefully joined our Lord on October 13, 2005.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on October 16, 2005, 9:00 a.m. at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

His children **JACQUELINE, CRISTINA & JOJO, OLIVER, JOHN LESTER** and **DIANA ANNE** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.



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➊ Copy of Death Certificate;
➋ Any identification document (I.D.)

CLASSIFIEDS

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Central Luzon Regional Office
Cabanatuan City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY - Central Luzon Regional Office (NFA-CLRO)**, Cabanatuan City invites contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

NAME OF PROJECT/LOCATION	APPROVED BUDGET
Repair/rehabilitation of Provincial Office Bldg. at NFA Compound, Baler, Aurora	Php 2,680,349.14

SCHEDULE OF PRE-QUALIFICATION, PRE-BIDDING AND BIDDING

Issuance of Contractor's Eligibility Forms	- October 13-20, 2005 (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Regular WD)
Deadline for Submission of Accomplished Contractor's Eligibility Forms & Requirements	- October 27, 2005
Issuance of Bid Documents	- November 10, 2005 (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM)
Pre-bidding Conference	- November 24, 2005 (10:00 AM)
Submission and Opening of Bids	- December 08, 2005 (10:00 AM)

All interested contractors shall submit their Eligibility Statements and Bid Proposal in the prescribed forms to the Chairman of the Bid and Award Committee (BAC), National Food Authority, Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City.

Eligibility forms may be secured at the NFA-BAC Secretariat upon presentation of Letter of Intent and payment of non-refundable fee of Php 500.00 per project.

Bidding Documents and Plans shall be issued only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Php 2,000.00 per project.

Venue for the Pre-bidding Conference, Submission and Opening of Bids shall be at the NFA-CLRO, Conference Room, Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City.

The bidding shall be governed by RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. For further inquiries, please contact the RBAC Chairman or the Secretariat at NFA-CLRO Cabanatuan City at Telephone Numbers (044) 463-1167 or (044) 463-1168.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA AND/OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) **RUBEN J. RESIDE**
Asst. Regional Manager
RBAC Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 8 & 15, 2005)

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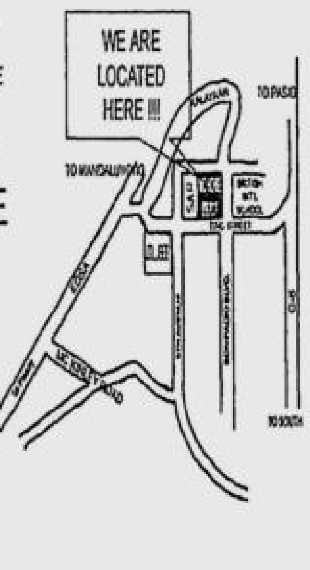

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of 45 units Asian Utility Vehicles

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*, through its *2005 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P36,000,000.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *the supply and delivery of forty-five (45) units Asian Utility Vehicles (AUV)*, as follows:

Lot	Particulars	No. of Units	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)
1	Any Wagon Type completely brand new, powered by 4-cylinder diesel engine with displacement not more than 2,500 cc. - with dual aircon, AM/FM radio and CD player - seating capacity of 10 persons - manual transmission, 5 speed with one (1) reverse	36	27,900,000.00
2	Any Wagon Type completely brand new, powered by 4-cylinder diesel engine with displacement not more than 2,500 cc. - with dual aircon, AM/FM radio and CD player - seating capacity of 10 persons - manual or automatic transmission - Keyless entry - All power - With alarm	9	8,100,000.00
	TOTAL		36,000,000.00

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *supply and delivery of 45 units Asian Utility Vehicle (AUV)*. Delivery is required within 30 days from receipt of notarized contract. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY-BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 AM to 5:00 PM*.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P5,000.00. The method of payment will be *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidders or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *November 2, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.* at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City* on November 16, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in either of the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One Percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *November 16, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.* at the *NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidders or Bidders.

Procuring Entity -	*NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*
Contact Persons -	*Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama*
Address -	*101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City*
Telephone No. -	*(632) 712-0454*
E-mail Address -	*vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph*
Fax No. -	*(632) 712-0454*
Website -	*www.nfa.gov.ph*

(Sgd) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI - Oct. 15 & 22, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Central Luzon Regional Office
Cabanatuan City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY AUTHORITY-Central Luzon Regional Office (NFA-CLRO), Cabanatuan City invites suppliers, manufacturers/installers/ fabricators to apply for eligibility and to bid for any or both of the following:

NAME OF PROJECT	LOCATION	APPROVED BUDGET
Re-roofing of Whse. #3	Balagtas, Bulacan	Php 1,832,850.43
Re-roofing of Whse. #1	San Ildefonso, Bulacan	Php 2,279,321.46

The prospective bidder may bid upon payment of a non-refundable bidding fee of P2,500.00 and submission of a certified photocopy of the following basic requirements:

Updated Certificates of Registration and Classification:

1. DTI/SEC Registration.
2. Valid and current Mayor's Permit and Official Receipt.

The Issuance of bid documents, pre-bidding conference and bidding proper shall be conducted at NFA-CLRO, Conference Room, Cabanatuan City on the following schedule:

Particulars	Date
1. Issuance of Application and List of Eligibility Requirements & Bidding Documents	- October 17-21, 2005 (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Regular WD)
2. Pre-Bidding Conference	- November 09, 2005 (10:00 AM)
3. Submission & Opening of Bids	- November 22, 2005 (10:00 AM)

The bidding shall be governed by RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. For further inquiries, please contact the RBAC Chairman or the Secretariat at NFA-CLRO Cabanatuan City at Telephone Numbers (044) 463-1167 or (044) 463-1168.

THE NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITIES OR DEFECTS FOUND THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS OR TO AWARD TO ANY CONTRACTOR WHOSE BID IS CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NFA AND/OR TO THE GOVERNMENT.

(Sgd.) **RUBEN J. RESIDE**
Asst. Regional Manager
RBAC Chairman

(PDI - Oct. 8 & 15, 2005)

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE

INVITATION TO BID

The assets, consisting of a parcel of land with an area of 425 sq.m., including improvements thereon formerly belonging to Prime White Cement Corporation, are being offered for sale on an "as-is, where-is" basis, located at No. 95 East Maya Drive, Philam Homes Subdivision, Quezon City.

Asset	Indicative Price
Land and improvements	P 7,437,000

Bids will be received, opened and tabulated in the presence of the bidders on **November 8, 2005** at 3:00 p.m., at the PMO Conference Room, 6th Floor, Privatization and Management Office, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

In the event this bidding fails, PMO reserves the right to accept proposals submitted for the above asset.

Interested parties may request for a duly authenticated sale documents for a non-refundable fee of P500.00.

For more information, please call Ms. Melinda B. Cortez of the Marketing Department at telephone numbers 892-2145 or 818-4733.

(PDI-Oct. 13, 14 & 15, 2005)

9th ANNUAL POSTGRADUATE COURSE ON AGING

THE COMMITTEE on Aging and Degenerative Diseases (COMADD) of the National Institutes of Health will hold its 9th Annual Postgraduate Course on Saturday, October 15 at The Pearl, Taft Avenue, Manila. Conducted annually by COMADD in celebration of the month of older persons, the course with its theme "Towards Able and Productive Aging," will feature experts from various Health disciplines who will talk on a range of topics including productive aging, nursing and dental care, improving function, mobility and quality of life, and promoting the well-being among older persons and their caregivers. Helath professionals (physicians, nurses, therapists, psychologists, among others), caregivers, students and other parties who are interested and/or involved in the care of older persons can contact Ms. Bambi Hijosa at the COMADD Secretariat, Tel. Nos.521-5640 loc. 521-7793, Telefax 523-9740.

ERRATUM

In the Invitation to Bid of **Privatization and Management Office** printed in this paper **Oct. 13 & 14, 2005** the **Indicative Price** should be **P 7,437,000** instead of P 7,747,000.

Our apologies.

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

'Have your buildings checked,' structural engineers advise

By Tessa Salazar

THE RECENT MEGA EARTHquake that rocked the countries of Pakistan, India and Afghanistan and which has left over 40,000 people dead has prompted many Filipino structural engineers to urge their countrymen to recheck the soundness of the structures they dwell in.

Structural engineers warn that this move is made more urgent by the fact that the Philippine archipelago is part of the Pacific "Ring of Fire," which makes the country ever prone to temblors and volcanic eruptions.

Engineers advise Filipinos, especially those living or working in highly populated, urban areas, to have an eye out for even minor cracks in buildings and other edifices, and if they do notice them on a particular structure, to have them checked by professional structural engineers right away.

'Be more vigilant'

The engineers advise building owners to be even more vigilant. "If there are no cracks, most probably your building should be okay. But as it is a major investment, make sure that this should be properly checked against earthquakes, nevertheless," said Ernie de Castro, professional structural engineer and former president of the Association of Structural Engineers of the Philippines.

Wilfredo Lopez, chief structural engineer, Bureau of Design, Structural Division of the Department of Public Works and Highways, said building occupants should be aware of their building's condition.

Lopez stressed that the building official of each municipality or city has the mandate to conduct annual inspections for private and government buildings. National agency DPWH relies on requests from building occupants and owners.

Inspection routine

Building officials who conduct annual inspections check for safety compliance not only for earthquakes, but for fires as well.

Lopez said the inspection routine is also part of the mandate of the DPWH main and district offices all over the country. But with the number of buildings in the country, Lopez said it would be impossible for the agency to inspect all buildings at the same time.

"We rely on the occupants of the buildings to be vigilant and request for their buildings to be inspected," said Lopez.

He stressed buildings in the provinces should be given special attention. Lopez has been part of the 1999 task force building inspection. His team was able to inspect more than 200 buildings in Metro Manila during a 1999 earthquake.

"There should also be a (structural) record and a professional structural engineer who had studied and designed the buildings for earthquake-proofing," stressed De Castro. De Castro is also the current chancellor of the University of the East Caloocan campus.

"Public structures should have been checked by structural engineers and certified earthquake resistant," he said. De Castro added that even single-level structures should be inspected.

Lopez stressed that owners of old buildings without structural and safety inspection records and the building plans stand to spend more in the building evaluation process.

Ideally, old buildings, particularly 20 years old and above, should undergo structural investigation to make sure it meets the life safety requirements of the National Building Code.

Overloaded buildings

Lopez revealed that buildings also have their own "load capacities." An improper use of buildings includes unauthorized construction of additional floors, or the use of the building design other than what it is intended for.

Lopez said the local building official of each city, who is under the administrative supervision of city officials such as mayors but under the technical supervision of the DPWH, has the jurisdiction to check private and government buildings in the city as well as keep an eye out for illegal constructions.

Lopez said that before anything structural is added or removed from a building, a permit must be acquired through the building official of the city.

Updated code

Determining the forces that a building needs to resist is indicated in the National Structural Code of the Philippines. The National Structural Code of the Philippines is the referral code of the National Building Code.

The National Building Code is updated after several years. A building designed 10 years ago, for instance, that complied with the National Structural Code of the Philippines might no longer comply with the new, updated code. But it doesn't necessarily follow that the noncomplying building is now unsafe.

Lopez said the main reason codes are updated is that when an earthquake occurs at a particular time, the engineers who developed the code would check if any building collapsed during the time. Inappropriate codes are then updated.

"If the spacing of the reinforcing bars of the buildings, for instance, was not sufficient, the building code will be updated," said Lopez.

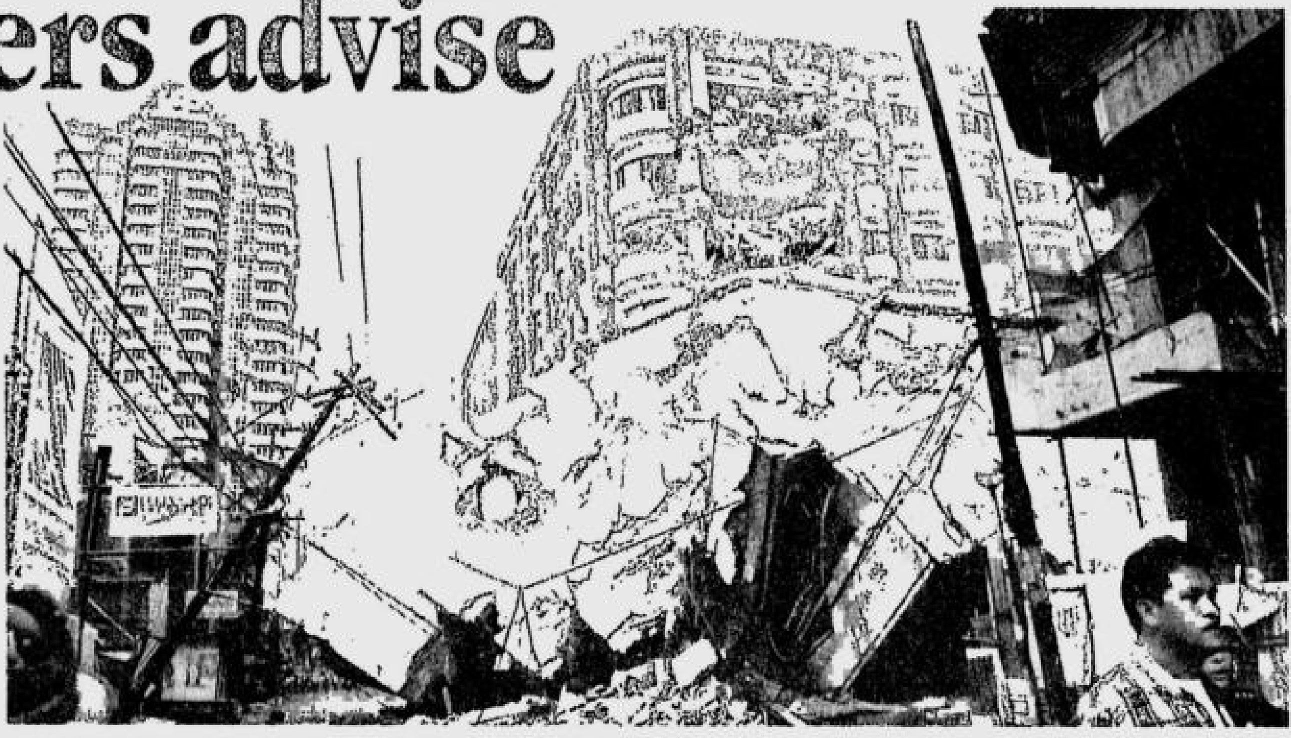
Life safety requirement

He stressed that the life safety requirement of the code should be satisfied. This also means proper use and maintenance of the building.

De Castro added that architects themselves are trained to design buildings that are earthquake-resistant. However, some architects hire structural engineers to help them with the more thorough aspects of safety, particularly on buildings with critical structures.

De Castro said properly designed buildings can resist earthquakes. Earthquake codes, however, are updated regularly. Philippine updates, De Castro admitted, may not come as promptly as they do in the United States, but the Philippines patterns its updates from the US earthquake code.

"Our building codes are up-to-date. The code is updated by the Association of Structural Engineers of the Philippines. It is being adapted as part of the National Building Code," said De Castro.



EIGHT-STORY Sai Building in Tondo Manila collapsed last year even without provocation from an earthquake. No one was injured.

THE INQUIRER lens captured a bit by bit disintegration of the building.

PHOTOS BY ERIK ARAZAS

THE NEW STREETS OF
SAN FRANCISCO

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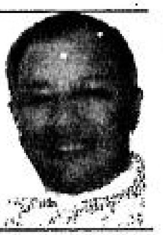


Marcos de Guzman Jr.

ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE TOOLS IN marketing real estate development is the construction of a model unit. By presenting a well-designed, fully appointed model unit, the prospective buyer is given a feel of what his house or condominium can become. It dramatically shows the potential of the property he is considering. He can envision where his personal effects would go and show him the possibilities of even the smallest spaces.

Successful developers have applied this formula as a standard and do not mind investing in the talents of interior designers. Some have even considered hiring foreign interior design consultants, although later discovered that, quite naturally, the local counterparts have a better grasp of the Filipino taste.

Magic of interior design

Ironically, an empty or bare unit may look smaller than when it is furnished. This is part of the magic of interior design. It is difficult for an untrained eye to visualize how to fit furniture and accessories in limited spaces. But a good interior designer can make an area look bigger than it actually is.

Not only can he make a room pleasing to the eye, but comfortable and practical for the user, as well. The designer uses his training in color, texture and form to bring out the best in an area. In addition, he calls on his knowledge of available finishes and fixtures to fit the needs of the space. It is not surprising, then, that the model units, though much more expensive because of the add-ons, are the first ones to be sold.

Value of interior design

Realizing the value of interior design in property development, the Philippine Contractors Association (PCA), in cooperation with the Philippine Institute of Interior Design (PIID), organized a competition titled "Estilo de Vida II inter-school interior design competition." This was chaired by PCA secretary John Bautista of Fil-American Hardware.

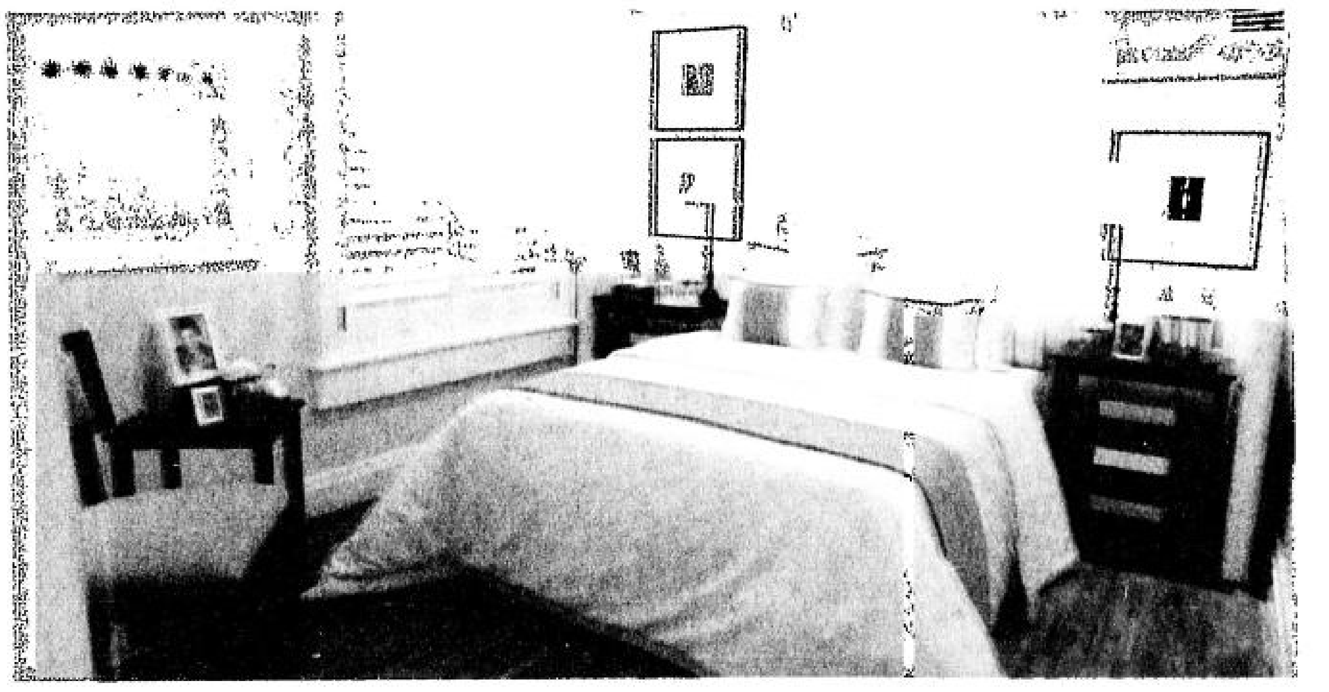
In this event, the interior design students from 11 schools in Metro Manila were tasked to apply their skills on a 36- square-meter residential space. Actual models of the top three designs shall be built by the PCA and displayed at the Philippine Construct Building Exposition on Nov. 10-13.

Competition objectives

The competition aimed to recognize the best of the young designers and to give them incentives to hone their talent. In an interview with Manolito Madrasto, PCA executive director, he enumerated other advantages of selling semifurnished to furnished units.

Contrary to the belief that a semifurnished unit is more expensive, he claims it would be beneficial to most buyers since the furnishings and appliances in the packaged unit are acquired by the developer at a lower wholesale price and without the addition of delivery fees. They can also pay for the said items as part of the long-term loan applied to the housing unit itself.

When shopping for your dream house, a little assistance in concretizing the dream goes a long way. The house is sold only after the buyer can see how easy it is to make into a home!



THE LEGACY at Montgomery Place model unit designed by Ivy and Cynthia Almario

OFFICERS and judges during the PCA-PIID design competition are, from left: committee chair John Bautista, with PCA officers Manolito P. Madrasto and Emilio J. Tumbocon, architect Rolando Mercado of RMDA Architects, architect Arthur Lising of Mario Arturo B. Lising Visioneering Group, Mike Pizzaro and Belen S. Morey of PIID, the author architect Marcos R. de Guzman Jr. as judges and other PCA officers Samson C. Lazo and Dominador Cruz.

Tiendesitas the country's value-shopping mecca

ORTIGAS & CO., ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S most respected names in the real estate and property development industry, recently opened Tiendesitas, a new shopping experience expected to rival the highly successful and world-renowned Chatuchak Market of Bangkok.

The management team of Greenhills Shopping Center, the country's value-shopping mecca, will also manage the Tiendesitas operations. This will ensure the complementation and synergy of both shopping destinations which cater primarily to value-conscious foreign and domestic shoppers.

Tiendesitas is an integral part of Frontera Verde, an interim 18.5-hectare Ortigas development project at the corner of Ortigas Avenue and E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5), Barangay Ugong, Pasig City. Other locators in Frontera Verde are SM Hypermart, a Fun Ranch for Kids, an Automall, a Wellness Center, a Technology Corridor, a Shell super station with retail outlets and restaurants strategically spread around the complex.

"Pasig City's newest shopping and family entertainment corridor will be the Philippines' pride," says Cathy Casares-Ko, head of Ortigas & Co.'s Real Estate Division.

Philippine showcase

Tiendesitas will showcase the best the Philippines can offer—native food, fashion wear and accessories, furniture, antiques, handicrafts, personal care and novelty items, pets, plants and other proudly Philippine-made products. It is a 30,000 square-meter complex of "villages" featuring stylized and unique Filipino architecture.

The 12 pavilions in the complex took inspiration from Maranao architecture, which in turn traces its roots back to the *bahay kubo*.

Indigenous materials were used in creative ways. Cogon grass was chemically treated and used for the roof; old *calesa* wheels were transformed into chandelier frames to light up the restrooms; *duyans* were scattered around the development to allow for short breaks amid frenzied shopping activities.

Special attention was given to the needs of the disabled and the elderly in the design of the complex.

The result is a novel interpretation of the conventional *bahay kubo* form. Lush tropical landscaping around and within the development provide a refreshing respite from the mall-complex atmosphere, and contribute to a totally pleasurable shopping experience.

All these elements make Tiendesitas the perfect place to showcase Pinoy's best ... every day.

More than 450 traders from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao specializing in merchandise from all the regions not usually found in mainstream retail outlets are exhibiting their wares in Tiendesitas' conveniently laid-out shopping pavilions. Haggling a la-*tiangge* (flea market) will be the norm as shoppers discover the treasures and pleasures of Philippine-made goods and produce.

Night market

A welcome feature of Tiendesitas is that shopping hours are from 12 noon to 12 midnight.

Says general manager Joey Santos: "This is the best time for working people who can only shop after work. And, tourists love the idea of the night market."

Acoustics and show bands will perform during weekends to create a festive atmosphere.

Exhibits

An area in Tiendesitas will be dedicated to special trade shows, exhibits and unique Filipino cultural presentations that are scheduled year-round.

Tiendesitas opened with a bonsai exhibit at the People's Village that ran for a week. An antique exhibit is scheduled this month.

"The whole place will be bustling with activity and we expect it to become one of Asia's major shopping and entertainment attractions," says chief operations officer Rex Drilon II.

Tiendesitas villages

- *Handicrafts Village.* Export-quality Philippine-made handicrafts (by members of Philippine Chamber of Handicrafts Industries) from home décor to fashion accessories which are not seen in regular retail outlets are found at the Handicrafts Village. Benguet handicrafts are included in the limited edition merchandise to be found here. The unique local treasures at the Handicrafts Village will surely make it an ideal source of gifts and furnishings.
- *Fashion Village.* This is a dream venue for young, creative and budding entrepreneurs to display their works and to practice their business skills on their way to becoming recognized in the world of fashion apparel. The next generation of Marikina's pride also gets to showcase their own flair in designing shoes and bags here.
- *Personal Care and Novelties Village.* Homegrown, homemade organic soaps, lotions and aromatherapy lines developed by enterprising traders are some of the thriving products in the market today. While these products normally surface only during bazaars, the Personal Care and Novelties Village allows them a year-round place to be exhibited and marketed to the public.
- *Pets Village.* This is not your traditional pet shop. Licensed pet dealers showcase exotic animals, rare species of birds, primates, snakes and iguanas. Also available are domestic pets like Labradors and Siamese cats as well as various species of parrots and parakeets.
- *Plants Village.* A garden of earthly delights! Potted plants, orchids, fruit-bearing trees and ornamentals are a feast for the eyes. Gardening enthusiasts will certainly revel in the variety of garden ornaments, décor and accessories that our shops offer.
- *Antiques Village.* Henry Babiera's "Mana Manila" is the anchor tenant for this Antiques Village. Henry's finds from all over the country are a real steal in this haven of history and artistry.
- *Furniture Village.* Modern export-quality furniture which finds its way to New York and other lifestyle capitals of the world can be found in the Furniture Village. Interior designers will delight in bringing their clients here for furnishing requirements.
- *Food Village.* Before shoppers drop, the best stop is the Food Village where just about all the favorite specialties of foodies abound. Care for Something Piggy ... Sometimes, Fishy? Or, perhaps halo-halo of all varieties? The Food Village has these and more like ihaw-ihaw galore, Minette's Inasal, Tita Lynne's Flavored Suman, Three Sisters' Pasig Pancit with chicharon, budbod of Taytay (rice toppings). Products from the country's premier farms like Nenita's and Dizon's will also be made available here.

Wet market, delicacies

On weekends, starting at 6 a.m. a seafood market brings the freshest live catch from Philippine waters which homemakers and chefs can transform into various culinary creations.

On the way out, *pasalubong* discoveries are Vigan's empanada and longganisa, Tacloban's suman sa latik, and Cebu's famous danggit.

There are always new additions to the delicious local delicacies from different regions.

Entrepreneurship

"As we have incubated hundreds of now successful businesses and national brands in Greenhills Shopping Center like Bayo, Kamiseta, Toby's and Folded & Hung, we hope to produce an even greater number of successful entrepreneurs in Tiendesitas," says Drilon.

With Tiendesitas, entrepreneurs from the provinces with unique products or products with outstanding value propositions can find a home in Metro Manila.

"It is a source of pride and privilege that we in Ortigas & Co., in partnership with hundreds of entrepreneurs from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, are given this opportunity to showcase the best that the Filipino can create and produce. If more Filipinos can see the creativity, the beauty and the quality of products made by Filipinos, perhaps we can learn to love our country a little bit more," he adds.

Models in realty dev't

Apart from the highly-successful Greenhills Shopping Center, other Ortigas projects that have become models in real estate development are the Ortigas Center (a CBD), the three Greenhills Subdivisions, the six Valle Verde villages and the three Greenmeadows residential enclaves.

"Tiendesitas is only consistent with the track record of Ortigas & Co. as a preferred partner in real estate and property development ventures in the last 74 years," Drilon concludes.

TIENDESITAS

HSBC'S Warner Manning and lawyer Ignacio Ortigas in the ribbon cutting ceremony which offially opened Tiendesitas.

ORTIGAS & Co. executives invite shopaholics to Tiendesitas. From left are Rex Drilon COO of Ortigas & Co. Ltd. Partnership, Cathy Ko and Joey Santos

MARGA Ortigas picks out a beautifully handcrafted *banig* container.

TIENDESITAS is a 30,000-sq-m complex of villages featuring stylized and unique Filipino architecture.

FINALLY a new shopping destination is born.

BEST way to travel! A Kalesa tours guests around Tiendesitas.

The 'friendly alien'

AMAZING STRUCTURES

RIGHT AT THE HEART OF AUSTRIA'S SECOND largest city lies what seems to be a big, blue blob created, ironically, to celebrate the city's designation as the Cultural Capital of Europe for the year 2003.

The Kunsthaus on the Austrian city of Graz, one of the best preserved city centers in Central Europe, is basically composed of reinforced concrete. A translucent, warm-blue plastic paneling with white plaster and metal mesh on the interior covers the modern museum, an outer skin that also serves as a media façade which can be changed electronically.

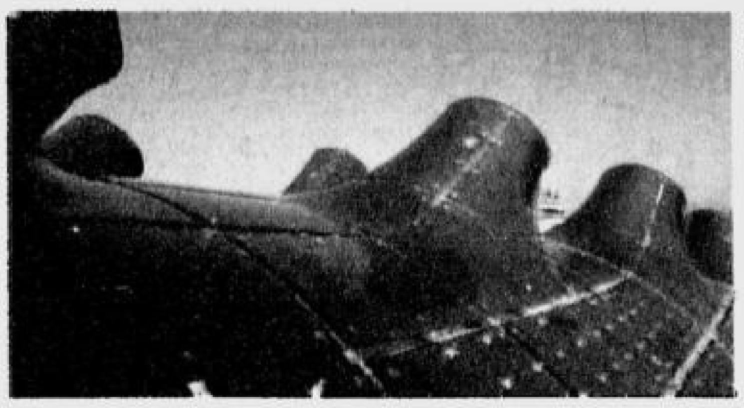
Well constructed

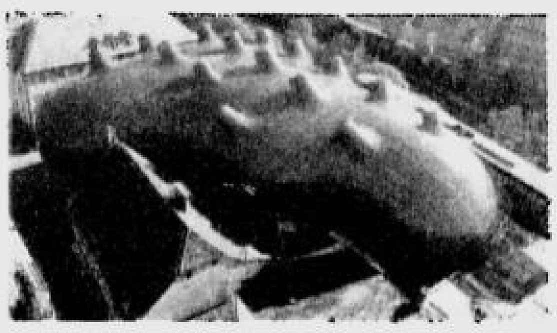
Some describe the Kunsthaus as very well-constructed despite having been built on a budget that is comparatively small for important cultural venues.

The "friendly alien," which lies on the banks of the Mur river, was designed by London architects Peter Cook and Colin Fournier. Although it sticks out like a sore thumb in the middle of Graz's mostly baroque architecture, it has been described as "very much a part of the city." Those who have seen and been inside the Kunsthaus applaud how effective it is as a space to display art and even acknowledge its charm and "cuteness."

Graz is included in Unesco's list of World Cultural Heritage Sites.

Dianne M. Villafuerte





"KUNSTHAUS Graz: a big, blue, charming 'alien' in the heart of an old town."

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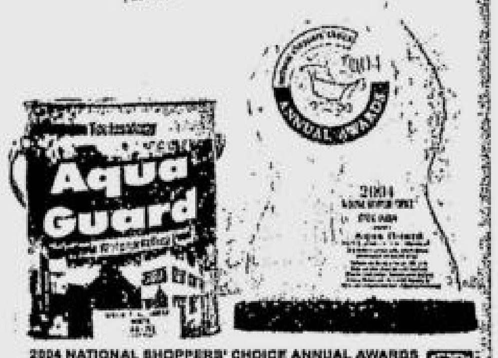

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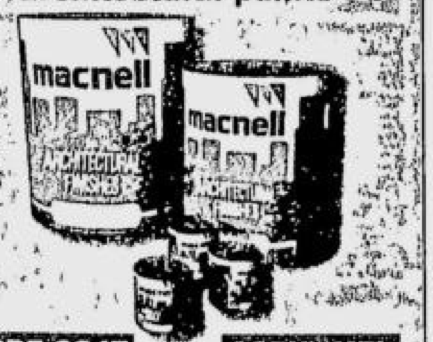

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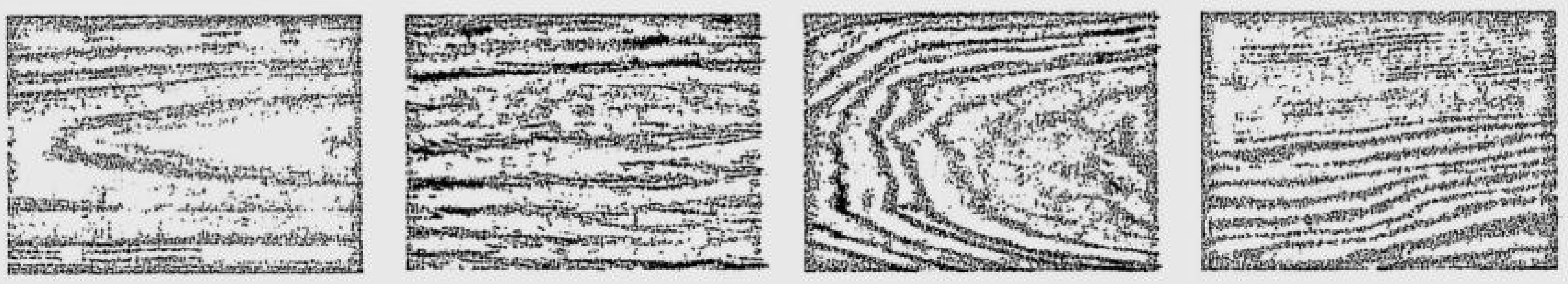

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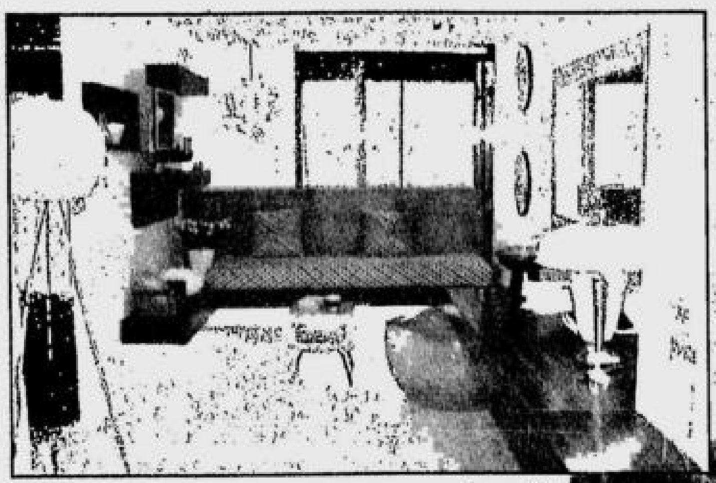
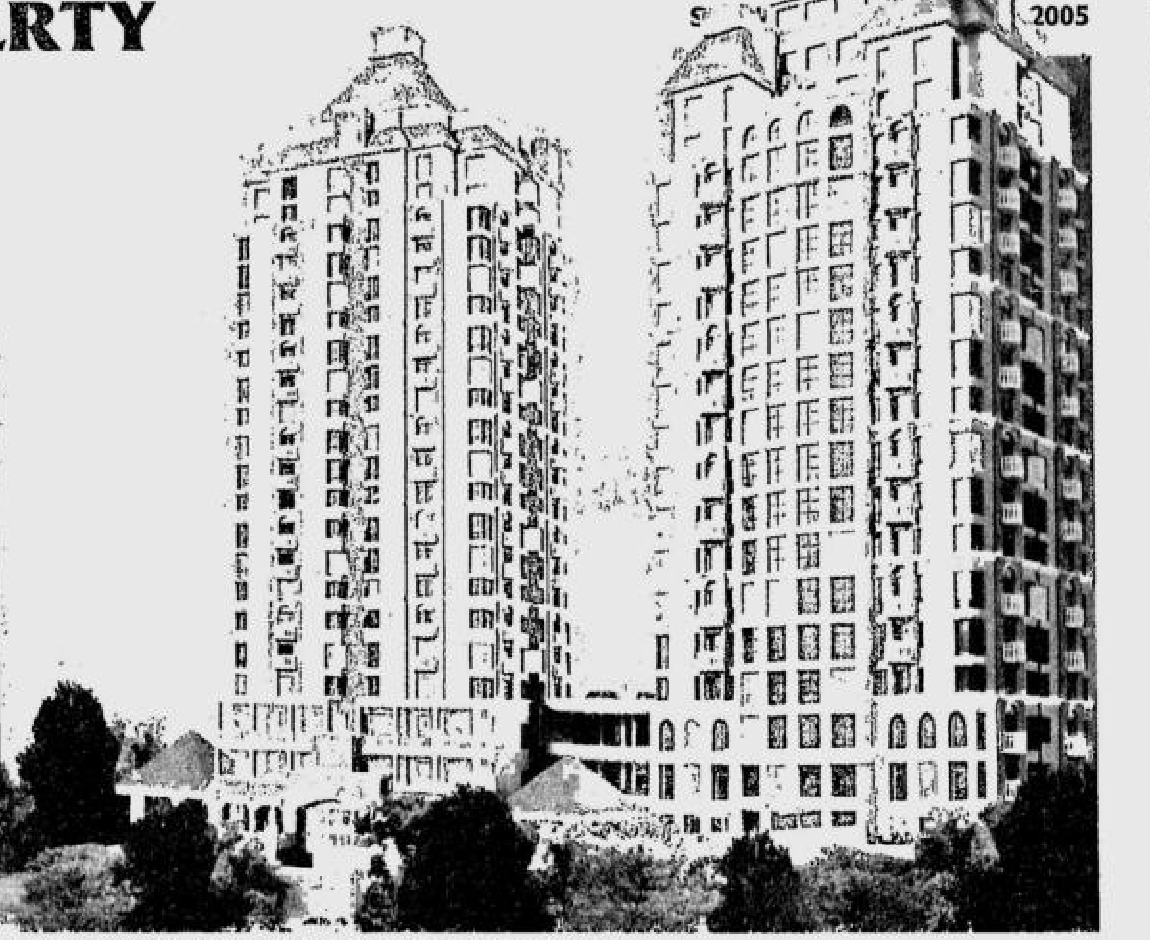
Viera: An oasis in the midst of a growing urban hub

A SKIP, A HOP AND A STONE DOES MAKE ALL the difference in the world. Imagine living a skip away from a fine selection of dining choices, a hop away from a variety of weekend activities, and a stone's throw away from the area's central business district. Then imagine living 20 stories above—well beyond the reach of this bustling hive of activities—in a cozy abode where peace and privacy are ensured.

That home is called Viera and real estate maverick Brittany Corp. has turned it into a reality in partnership with the Posadas family. Sharing a common vision, Brittany Corp. and the Posadas family set out to provide an ideal setting for a leisurely life where everything one needs is close by.



THE COZY Viera living room is an expression of warm welcome to guests and treats them to a relaxing view of the bay.



VIERA: an elegant assembly of privacy, community, style and convenience

Oasis of urban renewal

This latest expression of San Francisco living at Brittany Bay, Viera is an oasis of urban renewal south of Manila. Located within the Brittany Bay neighborhood—a neo-Victorian-inspired district—it is bound by the Sucat and Bicutan interchanges along the South Luzon Expressway and the edge of Laguna de Bay.

The development is a short distance away from the fast-growing business district of Alabang, a comfortable 15-minute drive to Makati, and 20 minutes away from Ortigas Center. Furthermore, it is a mere skip and a hop away from The Wharf—the newest destination south of Manila which presents delightful dining options and a range of activities for the whole family to enjoy.

Condo living convenience

As planned by Brittany Corp. and the Posadas family, Viera is part of a bigger master-plan community. This community, which is Brittany Bay, includes The Wharf, La Posada, Brittany Corp.'s San Francisco-inspired enclave which features single family homes, and the postcard row, picturesque Victorianne 1 and 2. Viera provides homeowners an alternative of having the convenience of condominium living without trading off privacy, style and a sense of community.

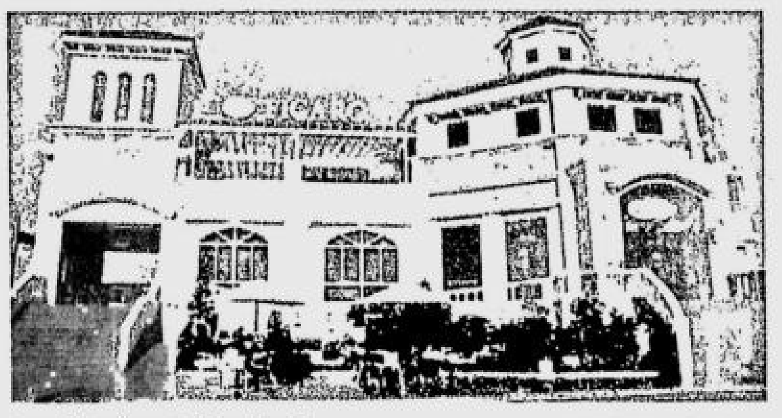
Viera consists of five to eight mid-rise, mix-use (residential and commercial) structures that will create a cozy neighborhood where excellent restaurants and charming cafés recreating San Francisco's vibrant nightlife are only an elevator-ride away. The structures are of varying heights ranging from 16 to 22 stories to break away from the flat, even horizons that often dominate conventional skylines.

"Viera is a very special development because it truly brings together everything that we value as a company. In a country where the real estate landscape is dominated by developments that cram more people in smaller spaces, Viera stands out by providing ample breathing room and, therefore, privacy not only among neighbors but also among the individual residents within a unit," said Jing Serrano, president of Brittany Corp.

Sufficient interaction

"The well-chosen commercial establishments ensure sufficient interaction among tenants, encouraging friendships and a true community spirit to take root and grow. And the design inspired by San Francisco's neo-Victorian architecture creates a stylish neighborhood that residents would be very proud to call home," Serrano added.

Just like its neighbors within the Brittany Bay community, Viera looks to San Francisco for inspiration with regards to its architecture. But apart from the charming neo-Victorian details, it also captures the laid-back attitude, overall friendliness and the amazing diversity of culture that characterizes the city.



THE WHARF is the newest destination South of Manila

Building features

This diversity is retranslated to variety—something that Viera is more than willing to offer its residents to ensure that one home is not a mere replica of another.

Various space configurations are offered per floor depending on whether one is occupying a one- two-, three- or four-bedroom unit which also ensures that every square inch of the property is utilized for maximum benefit. Bi-level three-bedroom units are also available. A pleasant bonus for most of the units is the relaxing view of Laguna de Bay.

Other building features include a 24-hour integrated security system, provision for high-speed Internet connection, individual mail boxes with keys, garbage chute, individual electric and water meters, provision for two telephone lines per unit, provision for hot and cold water supply lines and a multilevel car park.

Also available are various recreational facilities including a gym and spa, sports center, function rooms for special events, tropical pool and sun deck, kiddie center, and landscaped gardens and water formation.

Price packages range from P2 to P13 million, with the first tower currently 90 percent sold.

"Designed to create a space where privacy, community and style can meet, Viera is truly a novel approach to a residential-commercial development. And it is with pride that we say that it is Brittany Corp. that developed and executed this innovative concept that promotes a better quality of life," Serrano enthused.

For inquiries and property previews, please call 850-2868 or 850-3084, or visit www.lifeatviera.com.

Verdant Heights' location lures buyers

WHEN YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR Caren Sy was looking for a new home, the first thing she considered was location. Having a home near her work, she says, is not only practical, but also safe and convenient.

Sy is the first homeowner at Verdant Heights, an upper-middle-class residential project within the Multinational Village in Parañaque City. "It only takes me five minutes to travel from my new home to my business establishment on Sucat Road," she says.

Living with her parents in her new house at Verdant Heights, the 29-year-old Sy runs an equipment store catering to businessmen who want to put up water refilling stations. Apart from selling water treatment equipment, bottles and refilling accessories, she also manages her own water refilling station in the area.

Strategic location

"It's the strategic location that I find so important with living at Verdant Heights," says Sy, explaining the accessibility of the area to all points of the metropolis.

Her house, she boasts, is just a few minutes away to the airport, commercial business districts (CBDs), shopping malls, utility and convenience stores, wet and dry markets, restaurants, churches, schools, hospitals, sports facilities and government agencies.

"It is a good investment because you can save a lot of gas when going to work, which is very expensive nowadays," she says.

Evelyn Solis, One Asia's vice president for marketing and sales, admits that the strategic location of Verdant Heights is one of the top reasons buyers come, although she is quick to add that they also put value in the residential project's upscale development concept, 24/7 security, and flexibility of the payment scheme.

Solis says that from Verdant Heights, homeowners can reach the airport in 10 minutes, the same period that they can go to major shopping centers such as SM Sucat, SM Bicutan, Duty Free, Puregold and Uniwide Sales.

Major CBDs, she adds, can be reached in less than 20 minutes. The area is only 15 minutes to Filinvest Alabang and Madrigal Business Park; 20 minutes to Ayala, Makati; and 30 minutes to Ortigas via Edsa or C-5.

Verdant Heights, which responds to the growing need for stylish houses among upper middle-income group of Philippine society, offers 200 house and lots (40 percent) and townhouses (60 percent) with two to three bedrooms.

House models

A project of One Asia Development Corp., Verdant Heights offers three contemporary and highly functional house models that cater to the upper middle market. These include the single-detached Cedar Home, with a 172-square-meter floor area sitting on a 168-sq-m lot.

The project has beautifully landscaped parks spread across the 3.38-hectare exclusive and serene community.

Other house models at Verdant Heights are the single-detached Cypress model, with a 144-sq-m lot and 150-sq-m floor area; single-attached Mulberry, with 120-sq-m lot and 111-sq-m floor area; Gardenia townhouse, with 70-sq-m lot and 82-sq-m floor area; and Senna townhouse, with 56-sq-m lot and 66-sq-m floor area.

Prices range from P2.4 million to P5.8 million.

TALLEST BUILDING SOON TO RISE. Marking a new beginning for the The Residences at Greenbelt, Ayala Land president Jim Ayala (second from left), assisted by Ayala Land assistant vice president Kate Ilagan, VP Emilio Tumbocon, architect Ted Narciso of GF & Partners, Ayala Land SVP Angela Lacson and AVP Ruel Bautista, breaks ground to start the construction of the San Lorenzo Tower, soon-to-be the tallest building in Makati.

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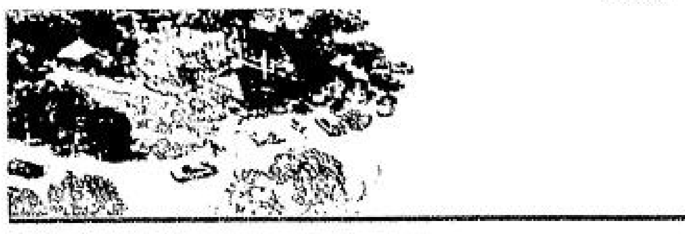


PROPERTY

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

Developer lets kids learn about farming

By Charles E. Buban

ON A RECENT morning, a group of schoolchildren streamed into this unique theme park, with hands filled with paper, pens, crayons and magnifying glasses while others were armed only with a curious mind and inquisitive eyes.

Inside, the schoolchildren drew yellow watermelons, white and purple bell peppers. A few inevitably used their magnifying glasses to hunt for bugs and stare at earthworms up close.

AT LEISURE FARMS Adventure, kids will learn the basics of farming.

The agricultural theme park is the work of Landco Pacific Corp., inside the 116 hectare Leisure Farms Tagaytay, the first hobby farming community and agro-tourism site in the country located in Lemery, Batangas.

"Many kids today have no idea how their food is grown. By introducing them to farming and gardening at a young age, we may inspire a new generation of family farmers that may strengthen the country's agriculture," says Leisure Farms Tagaytay AVP Mike Reyes of the Leisure Farms Adventures.

Other activities

Reyes reveals that the Leisure Farms Adventures also features other activities aimed at spurring the kids' curiosity and leading them to explore and learn.

Composed of a series of small farms, Leisure Farms Adventures agricultural theme park showcases different crops and agricultural technology, packaged for the entertainment and education of kids, as well as curious adults.

"Here, kids will learn about soil, seeds and plants (like different types of lettuce, giant and dwarf tomatoes, and identifying herbs like arugula, coriander, parsley, thyme, rosemary, peppermint, oregano, dill, and tarragon) while learning how to plant them. There's a kiddie vegetable garden, a tool area and even tree house for them to explore," enumerates Reyes.

Mascots

He also adds that the theme park also has its own mascots: Wiggly the Worm, Timmy Tilapia, and Quiz Bee who are always ready to impart their valuable knowledge while keeping everyone entertained.

Apart from these mascots, there will also be farmers and a number of residents who will be more than ready to answer serious inquiries from the agricultural farm's visitors.

"The theme park also features a flower farm that will show visitors how to grow flowers without soil while the High on Hybrids section will feature hybrid crops such as round eggplants, yellow watermelons, white and purple bell peppers and the process of how we have achieved such wonders," says Reyes.

Other attractions include an organic farm that features products grown without synthetic fertilizer (using only an all-natural fertilizer produced by earthworms as featured in another section called Worm's World, wherein kids learn how earthworms make the best fertilizer in the world).

Place to relax

Leisure Farms Adventures is also a place for relaxation as its developer included The Village Store Café (situated in the Village store) that serves Figaro coffee and fresh sandwiches.

"Another place to hang out is the fishing lake with a nearby picnic site. The fishing area is equipped with cleaning and cooking tools. Little huts are lined up beside the lake area for family picnics," reveals Reyes.

He believes the Leisure Farms Adventures greatly complement Leisure Farms Tagaytay's residents.

According to Landco Pacific, Leisure Farms Tagaytay is created for the farm-loving city dweller, or so-called "hobby farmer."

"The developers wanted Leisure Farms Tagaytay to be a place for these hobby farmers and their families to spend their weekends, engaging in both refreshing and productive activities, planting seeds, watering the soil, or just relaxing, enjoying the beauty of the surroundings, and the freshness of farm life. The agricultural theme park is meant to enhance this," explains Reyes.

As a multiproduct development company, Landco Pacific projects include first homes subdivisions, residential resorts, leisure farms, shopping centers and central business districts and memorial parks.

Ultimate Mango Tree

ONE of the spectacles inside the theme park is this tree that bears mangoes of different types, thanks to hybrid technology.

Tradition of Riviera Filipina roof tile expertise lives on

VICENTE C. ANGELES HAS SEEN every conceivable shade and shape of roof tiles as his family has been in the business since the 1960s. As the second generation in the manufacturing and distribution of roof tiles, the company he now leads Riviera Filipina Inc. (RFI), has the advantage of expertise in tile production and installation handed down from Era Industries Inc.

Founded by his father Enrique R. Angeles in 1965, Era Industries pioneered in the manufacture of glazed clay roofing tiles that firmly established the company with a reputation for quality products.

Said Angeles: "In the late '70s, imported clay roofing tiles became available locally, giving Era Industries stiff competition. Riviera Filipina was established in order to sell exclusively all the products of Era Industries and at the same time it also imported clay roof tiles from Japan and Spain. We found the need to diversify into concrete roof tiles in order to enable it to serve a wider market. In the late '90s we started manufacturing concrete roof tiles."

Roof tile expert

Riviera Filipina's products are a part of the Filipino's idea of a dream home. Now on its 26th year, the roof tile expert feels proud to have roofed houses seen in most of the affluent subdivisions in Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao, not to mention the beautiful vacation houses in Punta Fuego, Boracay and Tagaytay Highlands, which highlight the company's products and workmanship.

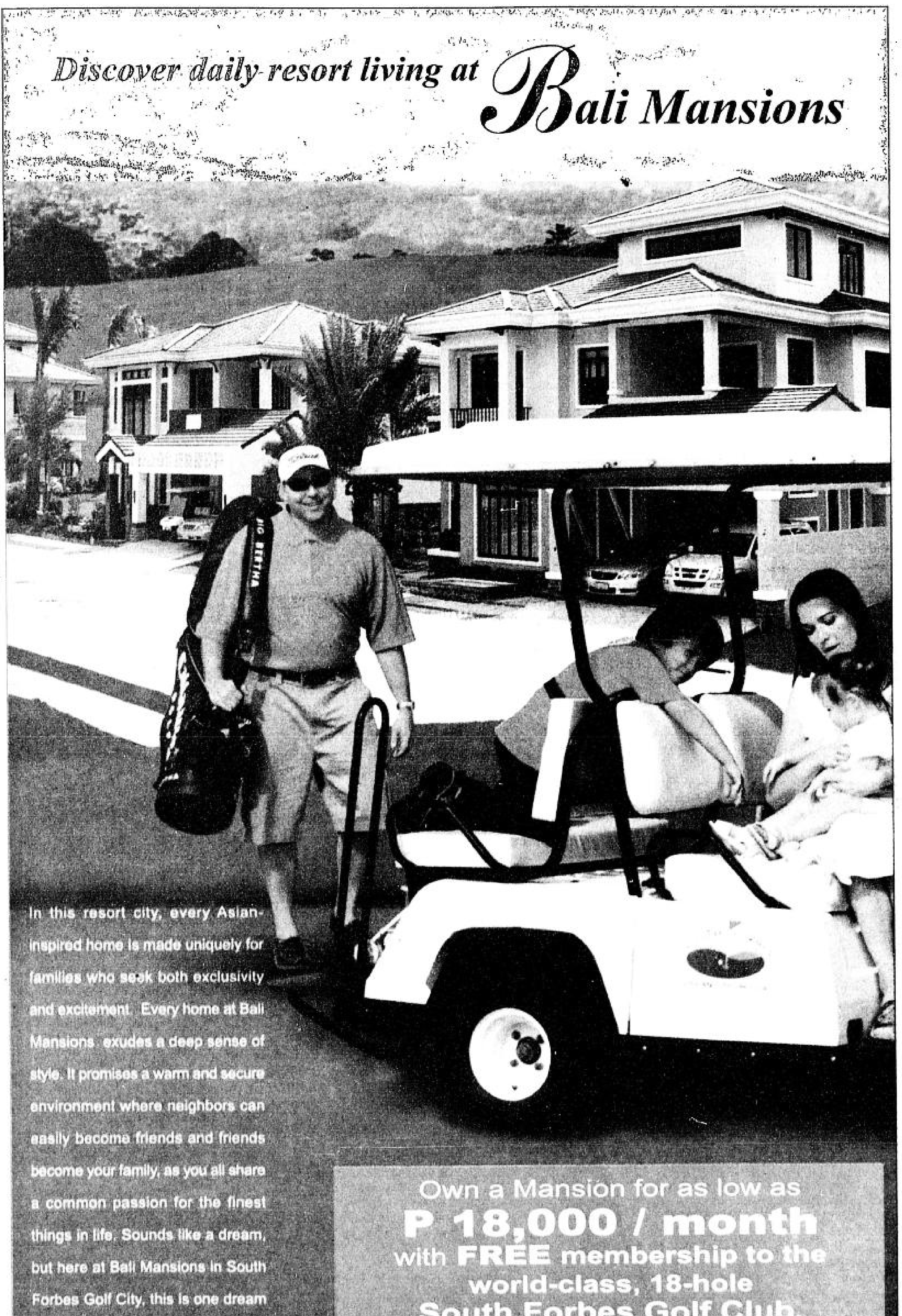
The discriminating taste of the who's-who in the field of architecture and "up market" developers have also consistently chosen Riviera Filipina and its products to roof their projects.

Today, Riviera Filipina is the only company that manufactures its own line of roof tiles that is complete with accessories, and at the same time imports various kinds of roofing materials giving the industry a very wide range of high-quality roofs to choose from with virtually endless choices of sophisticated colors, shapes and designs.

Riviera Filipina expanded its imported roofing materials to include asphalt shingles, fiber cement shakes and natural tone slates. Terracotta bricks and floor tiles from different parts of the world are also part of their product line.

Recently Riviera Filipina inaugurated their five-story main store and head office on Timog Avenue, Quezon City, to better serve their clientele.

"I would like to see Riviera serve the roofing market in the Philippines for many generations to come..." Angeles affirms.


Discover daily resort living at Bali Mansions

In this resort city, every Asian-inspired home is made uniquely for families who seek both exclusivity and excitement. Every home at Bali Mansions exudes a deep sense of style. It promises a warm and secure environment where neighbors can easily become friends and friends become your family, as you all share a common passion for the finest things in life. Sounds like a dream, but here at Bali Mansions in South Forbes Golf City, this is one dream that is right within your reach.

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Actual photos taken at the Lovina model Mansion.

For the pleasure of viewing our model Mansions, please call 635-8108 or 636-4647

www.southforbes.com

SOUTH FORBES GOLF CITY

THE ALL-IN-ONE CITY

Champion Location: Metro Sta. Rosa

OWNER / DEVELOPER: CATHAY LAND, INC.

DRAMATIC: The rust and beige theme of the master's bedroom lends considerable drama to the couple's everyday life.

BIG breakfast: A special breakfast nook adorns the spacious main kitchen by MFI, Europe's No. 1 kitchen.

Life's a beach at Lovina

AT THE NORTHERN TIP OF THE tropical paradise of Bali lies a beach that's perfect for watching the sun set over the horizon, for snorkeling and for diving with the amazing creatures of the deep blue sea. This unspoiled portion of paradise is called Lovina, where one can relax and be mesmerized by the wonders of this heavenly place.

The same relaxing ambiance of this Balinese beach is brought to life in the Lovina model unit of Bali Mansions designed by talented interior designers Ivy and Cynthia Almario.

Zen minimalist look

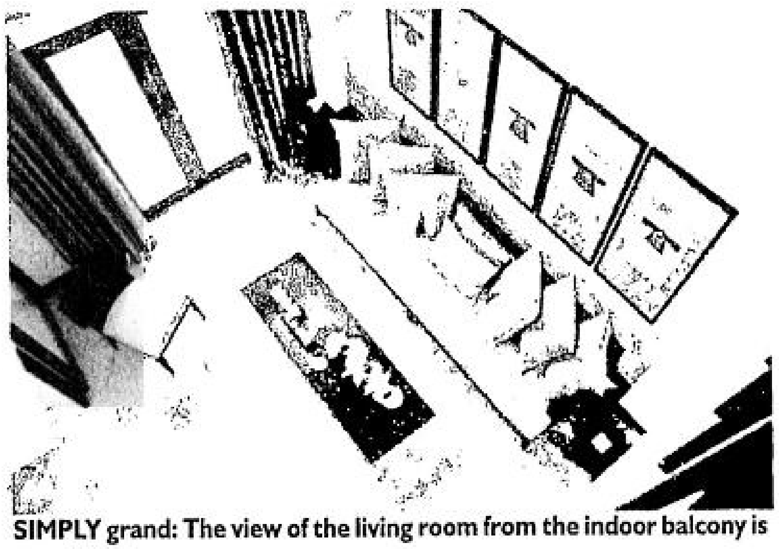
Ivy describes Lovina as having "more modern accessories like artworks and ceramic ware, with more contemporary lines." Meanwhile, Cynthia describes the whole Lovina mansion as having a Zen minimalist look.

When guests alight their vehicle, the soothing ripples of the family pond welcome them, just as the calm waters of the Lovina Beach have received thousands of visitors over the past decades. This mansion will surely be a hit with guests and relatives, as the den is just beside the main door.

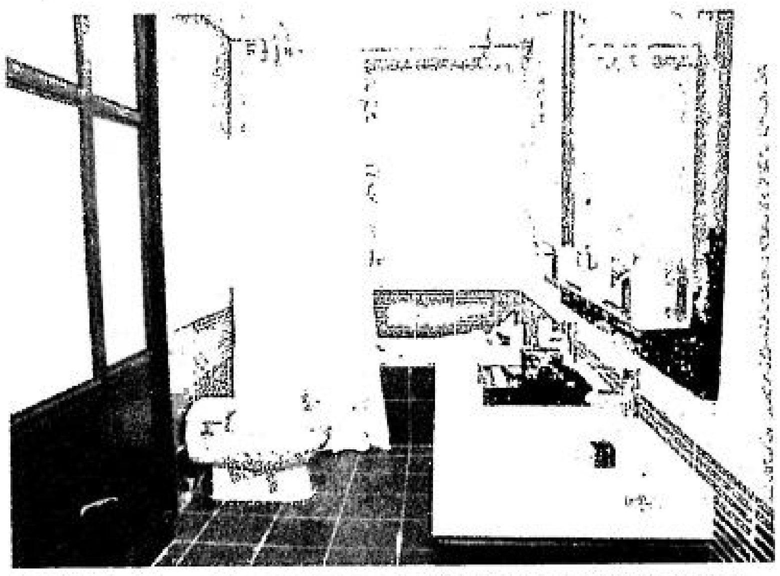
The den comes in earthy tones of brown and beige and is made soothing by the mirrors. Its multi-functional sofa bed can accommodate two guests until the next day, and their stay is made extra special by the full bath that goes with the den.

Modern Asian concept

At the door, a modern display inspired by library shelves previews the modern Asian concept of the whole mansion. White ceramics in various appealing shapes and sizes strikingly stand out against the dark brown wood finish. Ivy notes that this decorative space can also be turned into a library.



SIMPLY grand: The view of the living room from the indoor balcony is magnificent.



LUXURY of time: The spacious master's bathroom, with its walk-in closet and double lavatories, makes for a grand time on a daily basis.

The living room, with the South Forbes trademark of double height ceilings, features a five-seater beige and light brown sofa escorted by modern Asian lamps on both sides. Even if guests are being entertained at the spacious living room, a double sliding door keeps family affairs private at the dining room.

The dining area's tables and chairs propose an extraordinary interplay between leather and wengue wood. Incidentally, the dining room introduces a chic breakfast nook, where one can have intimate morning meals, or quick bites that are easily prepared from the stylish and luxurious MFI kitchen.

On the second floor, three ultra comfortable rooms, each with its own bath, allow a daily relaxing respite for every family member. The girl's room features a hand-painted mural with Southeast Asian bamboo stalks seemingly swaying to the cool winds from the Tagaytay hills, lulling the family's princess to sleep.

And when she wakes up, she can watch the sun rise over her private veranda, which is also perfect for a chitchat with close friends. Her wardrobe has an Asian inspiration as well, as these are blanketed by raffia shades. The modern Asian motif continues with the boys' room, which sports twin beds and a more neutral motif for the sheets and shades.

Epitome of Asian luxury

Of course, the epitome of Asian luxury is reserved for the master's bedroom. A private window, beside its matching sofa, gives the couple an unobstructed view of all the interesting events happening down in the living room. A platform bed in a rust and beige motif is complemented by the neutral colors of the walls.

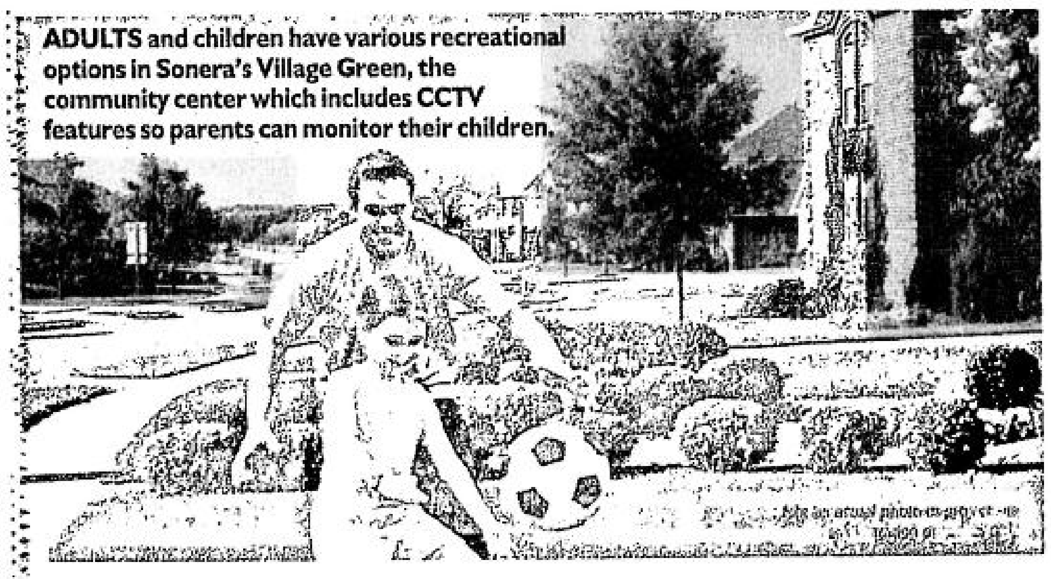
The chosen colors "give enough drama" to this room, according to Ivy. The couple will surely love lounging around in the extra large master's bathroom, with its spacious walk-in closet. Lovely calla lilies adorn their sizeable his and hers lavatories, which help them look their best for the bright new day ahead.

CONTEMPORARY wares: Modern ceramics in various shapes and sizes adorn the shelves at the living room.

Not to be missed, the third floor doesn't look like a bleary attic at all. Instead, this multifunctional facility can be used as a TV, family, or computer room—even a home office! It can also be used as another guest room, since it has its own bathroom.

In totality, the Lovina is a contemporary, minimalist interpretation of the relaxing environment that Asian designs can offer a 21st century family. Best of all, the Lovina is yours to own for as low as P18,000 a month, with a free golf membership at the 18-hole South Forbes Golf Club designed by Asia's leading golf course designer: the International Management Group (IMG).

For a personal or even a family tour of the Asian-modern creation that is the Lovina mansion at South Forbes Bali Mansions, call (02) 635-8108 or (02) 636-4647 or visit www.southforbes.com.



ADULTS and children have various recreational options in Sonera's Village Green, the community center which includes CCTV features so parents can monitor their children.

No tall walls in this cozy and secure community

OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEIGHBORS TO DEvelop close ties with one another and a strong sense of community will be built into Sonera, the newest phase of Ayala Southvale Village in southern Metro Manila.

Through the Village Green, a 10,000-square-meter community center, homeowners as well as children of all ages will have many reasons to interact with one another through various recreational facilities. Apart from sports facilities and a playground, the area also integrates an expansive social hall, a teen center and various gardens.

"The Village Green will be the convergence point for residents," says Tom Mirasol, Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) assistant vice president.

'Fenceless and free'

Sonera is a 20-hectare residential subdivision being developed by Ayala Land. It has been envisioned as a "fenceless and free" community where homes and families will not be hidden behind tall walls. Backed up by village deed restrictions that stipulate a five-meter setback, homes will have wide frontages that encourage lush landscaping and greenery.

"Sonera's design encourages neighbors to interact with one another and in the process share a common vision and purpose for the community," notes Mirasol.

Inspiration for Sonera

He discloses that Ayala Land drew inspiration for Sonera from its long heritage of building successful communities in Makati, Alabang and Quezon City.

Mirasol observes that in addition to the prompt delivery of basic infrastructure and amenities and its maintenance through the years, generations of homeowners seek different qualities in their communities.

Sonera's open and welcoming ambience appears to be hitting the mark with the current crop of lot buyers who have taken up over 50 percent of the available lots since the launch in March 2005.

Security systems

Observes Mirasol: "They want an open and free atmosphere within the community and at the same time want to feel secure."

To address this, Sonera will also feature state-of-the-art security systems. The flow of cars and visitors entering and leaving the community will be monitored and controlled by computer-automated security systems.

Moreover, infrared sensors and surveillance cameras will be installed in sensitive areas of the subdivision including the Village Green. These systems will allow residents inside the subdivision the freedom to walk around freely.

Parents will have little qualms about allowing their children to visit the Village Green's Kids Park where the pool for youngsters will be enhanced by a water play area equipped with water cannons. They also know teenagers will be secure at The Lounge which is suitable for study groups during the weekdays and band practice, get together and jamming during the weekends.

The Village Green also includes a swimming pool with jacuzzi, basketball court and badminton court. The Pavilion has been designed to host social functions for up to 100 seated guests.

For those interested in outdoors activities, the Adventure Path has scenic bike trails and walking paths around rolling mounds, water features and gardens. It connects with a 150-meter jogging path.

Island Park: An accessible Caribbean-inspired enclave

LEADING THE CRITERIA FOR choosing the perfect neighborhood for your family are distinct characteristics of esthetics combined with practical function and accessibility from the workplace.

Most of us, especially families with growing children, dream of living in a comfortable, elegant and inviting home with an island resort theme; bright sunshine tempered by cooling breezes throughout the day; and beautiful sunsets that turn into cool evenings. Also worth dreaming is a home with wide-open spaces enhanced by landscaped greenery and colorful flowers; first-rate sports and leisure facilities laid out among play parks and walkways lush with foliage; and with the happy sounds of kids at play in safety and security, surrounded by fresh, unpolluted environs yet a quick drive from the business districts.

But realizing that dream around Metro Manila is next to impossible, right? Not anymore.

Tropical theme

Maverick upscale property trendsetter Brittany Corp., with its roster of master-planned communities inspired by the world's best destinations, is making that dream come true with Island Park in Dasmariñas, Cavite, a collection of villages themed after the charming and breezy Caribbean.

Island Park combines tropical theme influences with great outdoor spaces, achieving a rare 45:55 ratio of open space to development areas in a 100-hectare luxury community.

Relaxing in the vast outdoors becomes a pleasant experience as the already verdant landscaping is enhanced with a quaint selection of tropical plants, while beds of white sand complete the ambiance of the island-inspired neighborhood.

Accessibility

Island Park will be brought closer to the commercial and business district of Alabang via the soon-to-open Molino-Paliparan entrance. With the construction already 50 percent complete, you can soon reach Island Park in 20 minutes from Alabang through Molino Boulevard via Daanghari.

The network of highways in the area makes Island Park's location strategic for metro residents, living in a community with the amenities and vistas of an island resort, while being just an easy drive away from business destinations in Makati, Manila and Ortigas, and leisure places like golf courses, beaches and upland retreats in nearby Tagaytay, Laguna and Batangas.

Island Park is already accessible from Alabang via Daanghari through Molino-Paliparan Highway, from Makati via South Luzon Expressway through Carmona and Southwoods Exits, from Manila via the Coastal Road from Roxas Boulevard, and from Tagaytay and Batangas through Governor's Drive where it is located.

Model homes

A selection of resort-inspired homes with commanding views of the community's scenic expanses are available at Island Park:

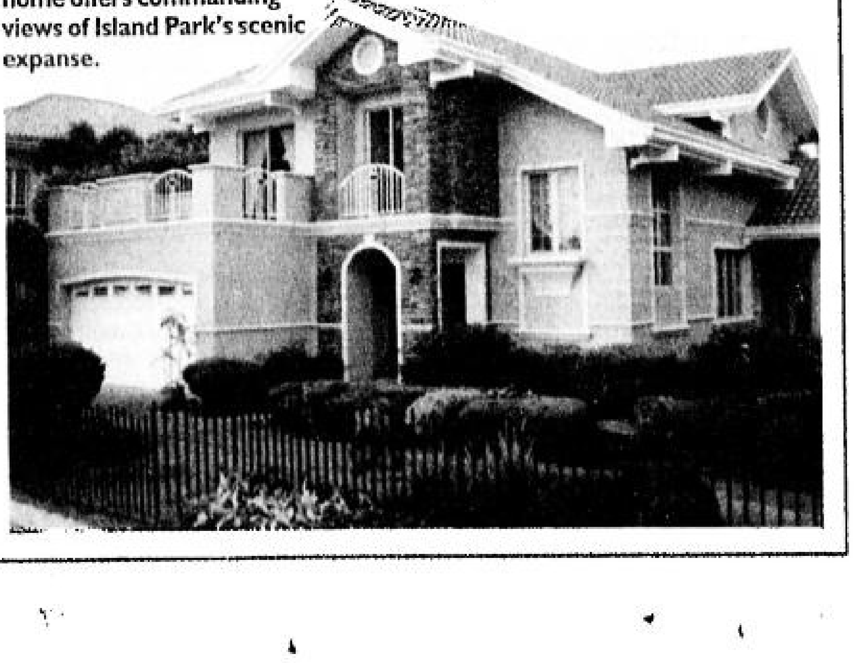
- Alpinia, with a floor area of 176 square meters on a 210-sq-m lot;
- Aristhea, a three-bedroom abode with two toilets and baths and floor area of 210 sq m on a 248-sq-m lot;
- Dianella, with four bedrooms, four toilets and baths, breakfast nook, auxiliary kitchen and family hall, offers the largest living space with a floor area of 260 sq m on a 264-sq-m lot.

Residents of Island Park can find in-house first-class facilities at Club Island, an exclusive leisure club with a man-made lake; and Paseo Park, the sports complex set amid green trails and gardens with a basketball and tennis court already available for use.

A veritable investment and a tropical retreat that is never far from the metro, Island Park suits Filipinos residing abroad who want a unique abode to come home to. The open spaces and lush landscaping provide a soothing ambiance, a far cry from the toxic environment of the bustling metropolis.

More and more families are starting to build their homes in the tropical-inspired community of Island Park. Previews may be arranged by calling 850-6986 and 850-2868 or visit their website at www.brittany-islandpark.com.

EACH resort-inspired model home offers commanding views of Island Park's scenic expanse.



Federal Land celebrates early handover of Lotus Tower units

A LAVISH "WELCOME HOME" PARty for new owners was held to celebrate the early handover of units at Lotus Tower, Oriental Garden Makati on Don Chino Roces Avenue. Executives and clients of real estate giant Federal Land attended the Mooncake Festival- themed event.

In his opening speech, Federal Land first vice president for marketing Ramon Aldaba offered a toast in "gratitude to unit owners for their trust and confidence in Federal Land." He added that the Welcome Home party is "dedicated to those who have eagerly awaited an early move-in to their new homes."

The gathering gave unit owners the opportunity to meet their new neighbors in Lotus Tower, as well as the contractors that made possible the earlier-than-scheduled turnover. The event also allowed the unit owners to get to know the administration staff led by building administrator Alex David.

Wide range of support

During the ceremony, Federal Synergy's Romson Velez explained the wide range of support offered by the group to the new unit owners. Those who purchased the property as primary residence or halfway home will be provided after-sales assistance, which will cover renovations, installations and unit maintenance.

For investors who plan to rent out their units, Velez promised that the Oriental Garden team will take care of negotiating with potential lessees, and finalizing contracts. Unit owners who go on frequent business trips abroad will likewise be supported by Federal Synergy in managing their property.

Building quality projects on time and on specification and excellent after-sales backing are the distinctive marks of all Federal Land projects. The Lotus Tower Oriental Gardens is well-located and offers a smart and exciting lifestyle near schools, malls, hospital and offices. For inquiries, please call 889-6414 or 889-4900 or e-mail inquiry@federalland.com.ph for more information.

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New model units at The Shang Grand Tower in Makati

IMPERIAL House of Furniture designed the interiors of this typical two-bedroom unit.

LIVING and dining areas of a typical two-bedroom unit designed by Butaka

NEW MODEL UNITS DEsigned and furnished by Imperial Furnishings and Butaka are now available for viewing at The Shang Grand Tower on Dela Rosa corner Perea Street, Legazpi Village in Makati City.

The 250-unit, 46-story The Shang Grand Tower, the first self-funded residential condominium of Shangri-La Hotels & Resorts' Kuok Group in the country will be completed, per schedule, during the latter part of this year.

The project site is currently bustling with activities including extensive operations training facilitated by Makati Shangri-La Hotel for the building management team and fitting out plans of the individual unit owners.

Following its public launch in September 2003 up to now, only an estimated 16 percent of the 250-units of this high-end residential condominium are left for sale.

For more information, please call 811-1819 or 811-0556 or visit www.theshanggrandtower.com

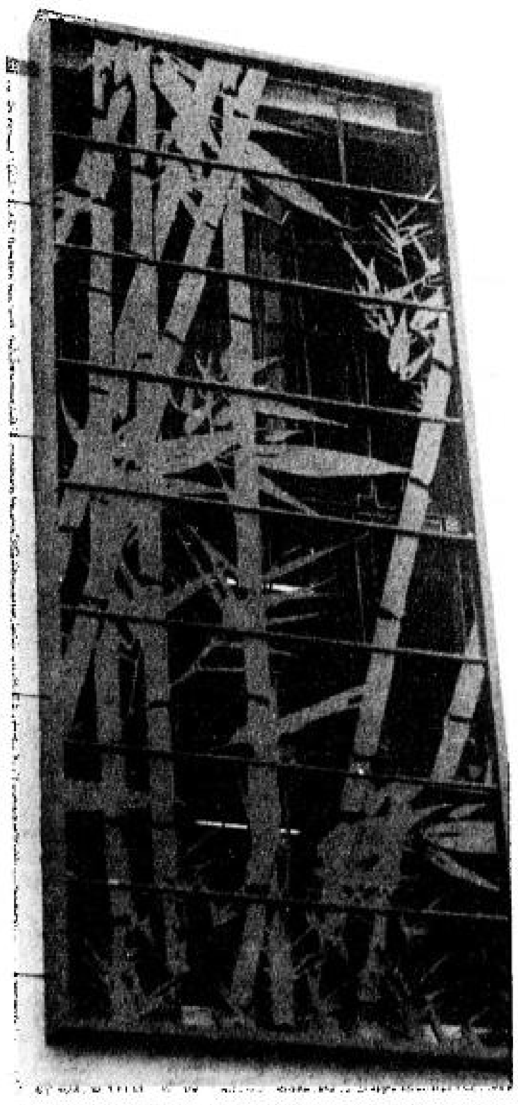
Giant artwork exemplifies distinction at The Columns Ayala Avenue

ONE OF THE MOST DISTINCTIVE FEATURES of The Columns Ayala Avenue is present for all to see.

Passersby along the intersection of Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue and Ayala Avenue can't help but notice the innovative bamboo artwork—five stories tall, paneling the sides of the three-tower, 30-story condo high rise from Community Innovations Inc. (CII) by Ayala Land.

The artwork was designed with just that in mind.

"We wanted The Columns Ayala Avenue to be something special," says Edwin Yabut, architect for CII who worked with his team and with architectural firm RMJM Philippines in the meticulous design of The Columns.


BAMBOO was selected because Community Innovations wanted The Columns to have noticeably Asian touches.

"With all the planning and effort to create an attractive place to live that went into the building, we wanted the outside of the building to embody that," he adds.

Immense art pieces

The immense aluminum art pieces, finished in classic bronze, are part of The Columns' instant curb appeal.

They portray a frieze of graceful bamboo stems and leaves against open space, creating the impression of layers of depth.

"The design itself was created, drawing inspiration from nature and contemporary Filipino artistic photography," says Yabut.

"We wanted to showcase the relaxed and casual atmosphere of The Columns, which is why we chose a theme of vegetation. Bamboo was selected because CII wanted The Columns to have noticeably Asian touches." The artwork reflects the Zen-style gardens that surround the lobbies of the buildings.

An innovation

The large-scale public artwork is an innovation of CII for its Columns projects, The Columns Ayala Avenue and the upcoming The Columns Legazpi Village.

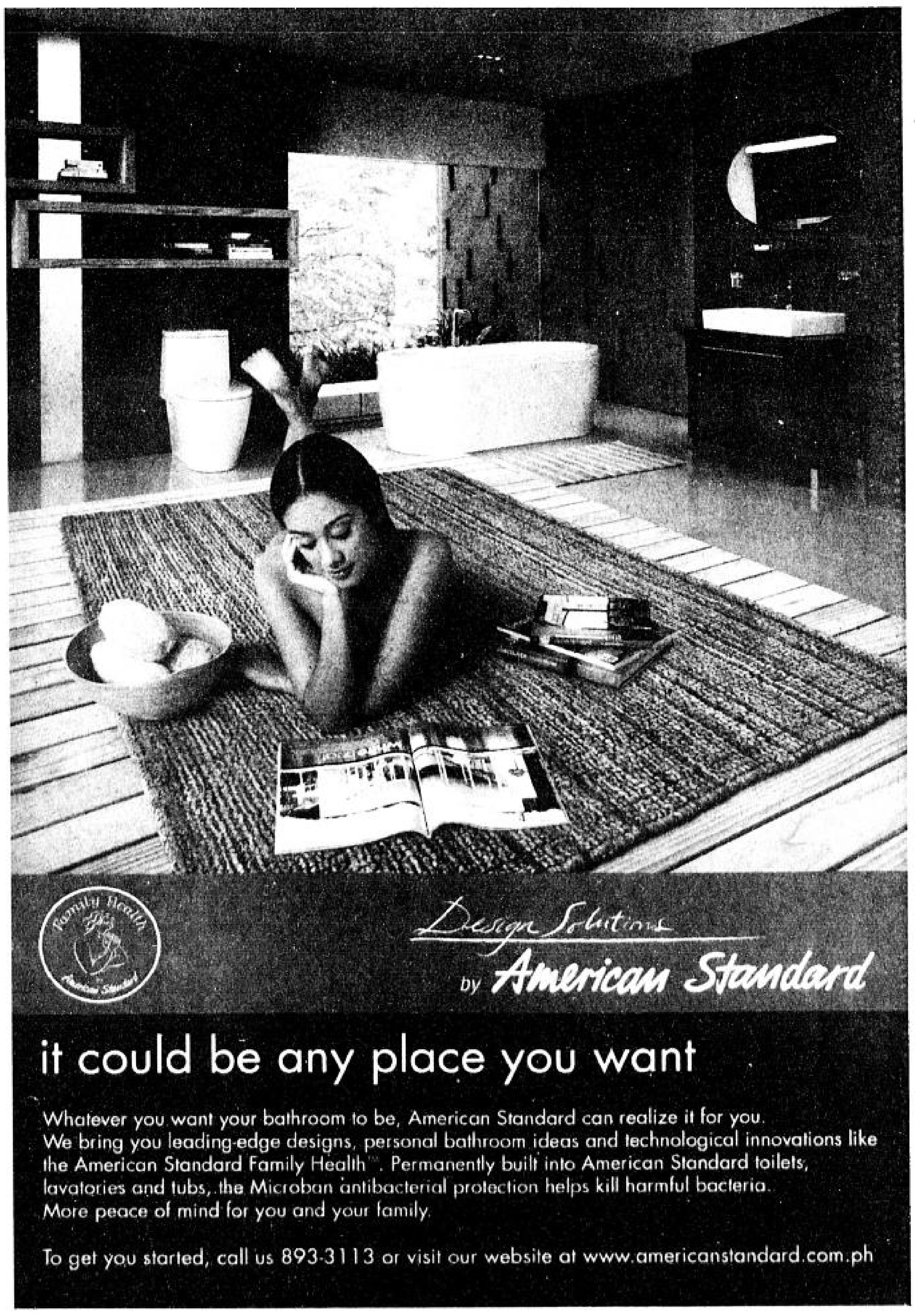
The Columns Legazpi Village is a twin-tower, 41-story condominium on Arnaiz Avenue, one block from Greenbelt. Inspired by the success and vision of the Ayala Avenue development, the Legazpi Village site will boast the first loft-style and bi-level units in its affordable price range in the Makati central business district. Its façade will also be decorated with monumental artwork similar in theme to that gracing The Columns, Ayala Avenue.

Ideal residences

"The Columns projects, from Ayala Avenue to Legazpi Village, are ideal residences for young urban achievers and their families in the Makati central business district," says Yabut.

"We have designed everything, inside and out, to reflect the aspirations of our customers. As an Ayala Land company, we have the ability to create products that are a cut above the rest. This artwork is part of that," he adds.

Community Innovations is an Ayala Land company catering to young urban achievers. It builds balanced, harmonious communities with a sense of fun, where the living experience enhances the lifestyles and fulfills the aspirations of its customers.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The rewards of a BPI Family Savings Bank top broker

KNOWING THE hardship brokers go through for its buyers as well as for its sellers, BPI Family Savings Bank recognizes them every quarter of the year, treating them to various rewards and even developing friendly relations with them through the President's lunch.

Lita Valdez, a broker for over a decade, was awarded the top broker recognition for the second quarter of 2005. "I feel pampered. It is a pleasure to be with BPI Family Savings Bank and meeting other top brokers," Valdez said.

For being the top broker for the second quarter of 2005, Valdez received a free trip for two to Palawan as her prize.

Another treat that the top brokers enjoy with BPI Family Savings Bank is a quarterly get-together at the newest "chic" restaurants in town. During this get-together, top brokers get a chance to win free trips to popular local destinations.

At the Mezze Restaurant in Greenbelt 3 last July 28, Noelle Palma won the first prize during the raffle draw that earned her a free trip for two to Palawan. Other lucky brokers were Emilia Robles (2nd prize) for a trip to Boracay, Don Rivera (3rd prize) for a trip to Bohol, Carisa Bayot (4th prize) for a two-night stay and Catherine Coniega (5th prize) for an overnight stay in a luxury hotel.

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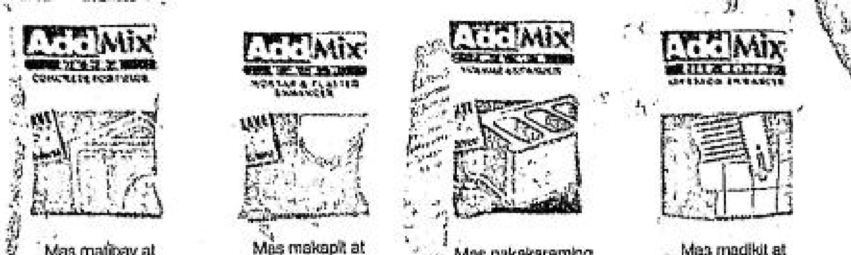

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Expert Convinced on the Performance of AddMix

AddMix: The Key to Efficiency

What do clients look for in a construction project? "Quality of work is of utmost importance", says **Engr. Rene C. Raagas**, an expert in the field of construction. The word "quality" encompasses all the necessary requisites - strength, durability, stability, and aesthetics. It also includes such attributes as superiority in kind and assurance of safety for people who will work and live in completed structures.

Engr. Raagas, who now oversees the construction of the World Health Organization's (WHO) Western Pacific Region as Quality Assurance and Control Head of DDT Konstract, Inc. (the contractor of the project) knows how to attain all the pre-requisites of quality by using tried and tested products. "I can really rely on **AddMix** products to come up with desired results. These admixtures from Global Brands come in powder form and as such are easier to mix. Indeed, they are very useful at every stage of a construction project," he says.

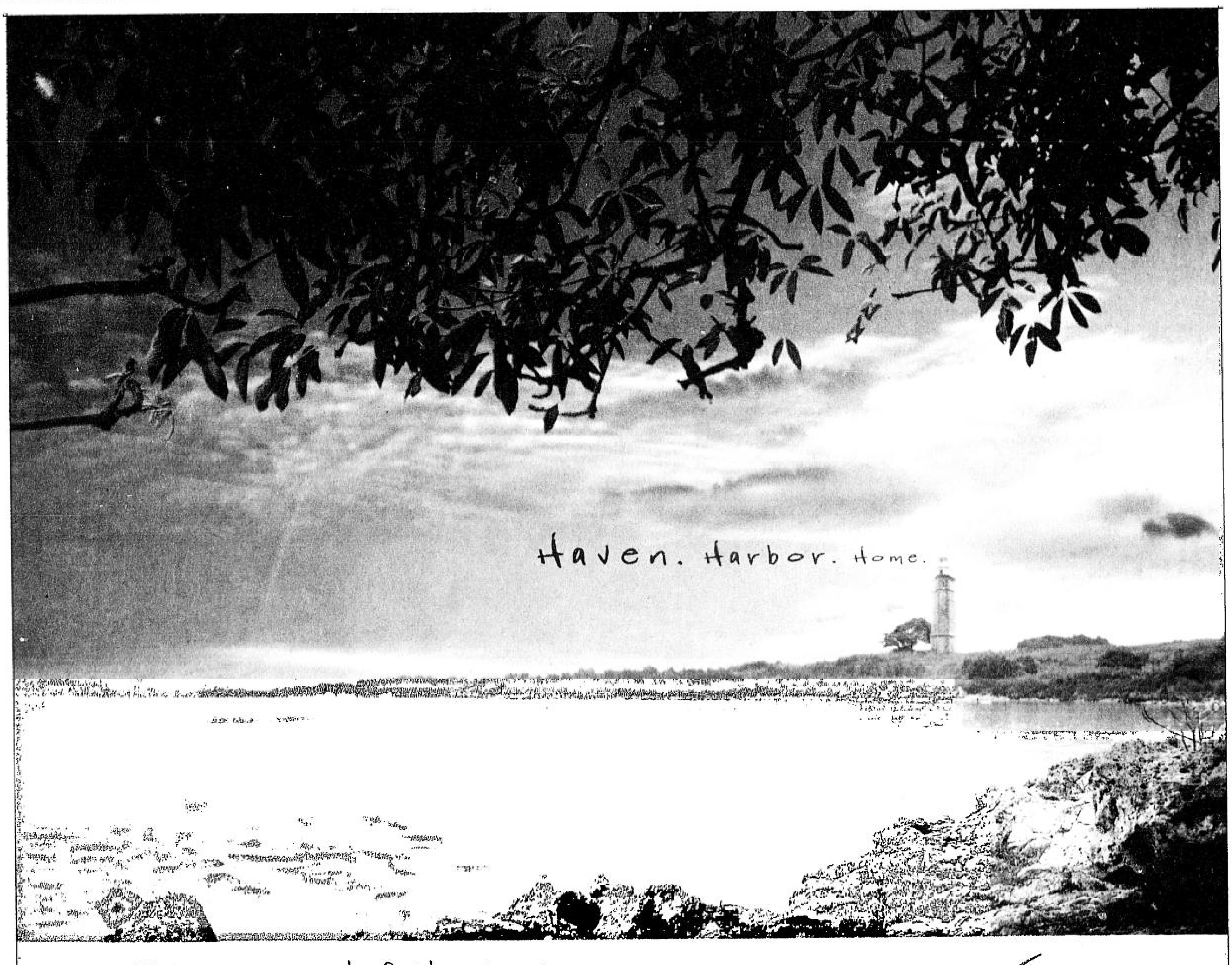
Having a keen eye for detail is something Engr. Raagas is blessed with, which goes well with his lively and sensible work attitude. He has worked for respected companies in the past, that lessons in various aspects have further honed these traits. While employed at Samsung Construction Philippines, he was Project-in-Charge for the 54th storey high and 8 1/2 basement PBCom Tower right at the heart of Makati. It was only recently that Engr. Raagas was also QA/QC Manager for the Galleria Regency project located at Ortigas area when he was with L & M Maxco.

Aside from the pool of talented engineers and strong leadership of management especially the company president who gives the right directions, there is also the importance of having the right products to use. As far as he is concerned, **AddMix** is a revolutionary product and it is one of the secrets behind the success of the projects of **DDT KONSTRACT, INC.**

"I use all variants of **AddMix** in all my projects," states Engr. Rene C. Raagas, an expert in the field of construction. "These products have proven to be a boon in all my undertakings as they have made work much easier and faster," he says.

Engr. Raagas explains how he uses these products - "I use **AddMix Ultra** which promotes faster curing time and increases comprehensive strength of concrete, saving us time but ensuring quality. With **AddMix Easy**, all the plaster in my projects have no unsightly cracks as they are firmly adhered to the wall. During my pre-AddMix days, I used to have a lot spoilage and had to rework things but with **AddMix Easy**, plastering became highly efficient in terms of time and costs. With **AddMix Tilebond**, tile setting for GDC, WSO and E Offices in Makati was made much easier as there was stronger bonding, faster setting and curing results. Comparing this **Tilebond** with conventional tile setting mortars, **AddMix Tilebond** applied cost per square meter is lower thus more economical."

"I have already referred AddMix to other colleagues," says Engr. Raagas. When asked why, he said he has used this successfully and that he believes in the product 100% and will continue on using it with other projects. Undoubtedly, even to a well-trusted engineer like Engr. Raagas, AddMix is seen as the partner to quality concrete.



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16 days 'til Hallow's eve

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Creative Director **Tim Yap**

anne-imation

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Sitting editor: DAVID MILAN
[illegible] ANNE CURTIS

The colored-kuba life of Anne Curtis page C2

Initial-D premieres in Manila page D2

Man About Town is back in town page E1

How to jump off a buiding and live to tell the tale page C2

The new Fully Booked, Motorola's ROKR iTunes phone, Shu Uemura and Gwen Stefani and other Super! Selections pages D2 & D3

Get a dose of Pinoy comic book creativity page D2

It's time to make some Superfriends! page D1

Tals Diaz moves out and moves in page C2

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In the Kompany of the Kampanera

A fictional interview with the hottest bell-ringer this side of town

By James Gabrillo and Pepe Diokno

IT SEEMS EVERYONE'S TALKing about this girl. And because we at Super! are at the forefront of pretty much everything, we set out to find her. It was extremely difficult to find Ms Kuba—like, have you ever heard of another unsightly hunchback who lives at the bell tower of a certain church or cathedral? Um... no. There's only one Kampanerang Kuba—and her story is unique. Okay, not really. But still, everyone's talking about this girl.

Here's what our private eyes have dug up about her: Fatima aka Imang, is a young woman who is beautilly-challenged (poetic license!). This hasn't stopped her, though, from being a kind, cheerful and helpful person. She was raised in a convent by priests—sorry, nuns (we put that in just to surprise you). She lists her occupation as "kampanera" (bell-ringer).

But the investigative reporter in us just had to delve deeper. We want to show you the inner recesses of Imang's brain—her soul, what makes her tick, what drives her... And so we used the ultimate interview tool... a questionnaire.

Have you ever been so drunk you blacked out? Yeah, like, in Embassy last night. I made *suka sa* dance floor 'cause I went beyond my limit... of eight glasses of water a day. (Don't tell the *madres a*!!)

Have you ever set any body part on fire for amusement? Hihihi... *kayo a*! How'd you find out?

Have you ever cried during a movie? Yes!! When I watched "Mahal Kita, Final An-

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Favorites

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Move is in the Heart

On moving out and living in with the housemate from hell called yourself

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

A BAG OF POTATO CHIPS, A computer, a lava lamp and an unopened bottle of tequila. True, convicted prisoners may have more earthly possessions in their jail cells, but for me, these were the first vital signs of a new home.

At some point in the trajectory of life, there comes a time when personal freedom comes down to a matter of living space. No longer is it acceptable to be mooching off the kindness of loved ones in the currency of food and coffee, nor is it good for one's mental health to be breathing the same air with siblings who still call you *"Girl Putik"* long after that day you first ate mud. Moving out of your longtime home and into a place all your own is a monumental shift not just in personal space, but personal psyche.

Unlock and roll

And man was I psyched! Sliding the keys through the keyhole of my own apartment for the first time was like unlocking a new world. Walking through the doors was a slow waltz through the looking glass. Opening the windows for the first time to breathe in the city lights below was inhaling that familiar scent of freedom. I needed to soundtrack the occasion; Moby's "Homeward Angel" blessed my new sanctuary. Just as I was about to sprout wings and pour imaginary champagne to toast to my new address, there came a low, growling noise. It was the kind of sound that stomachs make to signal hunger. Now, since my daily diet didn't quite consist of indoor plant leaves or ice shavings cultivating in the freezer, my cupboard was bare. Thank God for Dial McDo.

And just like that, the romanticism and overuse of metaphors came to an abrupt halt. For sooner did I realize that freedom was power, and recalling that Spiderman clip, with great power comes great responsibility. And great responsibility is a pretty groovy euphemism for a giant electric bill. Reality check, mate!

When you happen to finally move out and into your own place, it won't take too long before you realize that you're shacking up with a housemate from hell called yourself. And getting to know yourself on this whole other plane of existence ... well, let's just say that self-discipline is a virtue that can't come at a better time. A few notes for all ye future movers and salt shakers:

1. **Your best friends may not be the wisest of companions at the grocery store.** Unless you consider beer, instant noodles and peanut butter to be a square meal, better to hit the grocery on your own. On my very first "independent" grocery spree, a few eager friends tagged along. They were just as elated at the thought of having a new hangout in the city that didn't require a password or an entrance fee. Thus, they didn't find it a tad strange when they had filled my grocery cart with just about everything that I needed—for a house party. I had since then dined exquisitely on V Cut canapés, sipped the finest Red Bull, and sugared my morning donuts with Extra Joss.

2. **Every night spells a temptation to go out.** So your crew has found a cozy new crash pad in the city that happens to have your address. But what happens when the beer runs out and it's not even midnight? One innocent look out the window would soon reveal the pretty neon lights of a nearby pub, and next thing you know, you're tanked and singing along to Santana with all the Gringos welcoming you to the new neighborhood. *"When I come home ... bay-behh!!!"*

3. **Every day spells a temptation to stay in.** It is such a wonderful feeling to wake up and have breakfast in your skivvies, not worrying at all that your unpainted face and *buhaghag* hairdo could mold bread if you stared at it long enough. In the hangover haze, a French mob is storming the castles of your head, dancing around and chanting, *Liberte!* So this is what privacy feels like! Suddenly, you're crafting excuses for not showing up at work or important meetings that day, just so you could languidly enjoy your morning coffee while watching replays of CSI in your very own private hideaway.

4. **Things you've taken for granted before are now a luxury.** A luxury that runs out, that is. A luxury that is a bitch and a half to get at an ungodly hour. A luxury that, though a Class A hassle, needs to be procured at once, like drinking water or toilet paper. Toilet paper? 'Nuff said.

5. **All of a sudden, the design doctors of "Queer Eye" and "Knock First" have been beatified to deity status in your mind.** Thom Filicia can transform a wasteland into a wonderland in two days. A few weeks have gone by and I still can't decide whether my rug color should be rust o
or if I need a rug at ali
mantra with me: Rome w
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6. **When you're not**
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7. **You're suddenly**
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DYAN looks up and smiles her way down 61

Leap of faith

By Dyan Castillejo

IMAGINE JUMPING OFF A 61-story building, stepping out into nothing and landing smoothly on the ground. Impossible?

Nope. At the Macau Tower, you can! The Macau Tower doesn't just stand out as one of the most beautiful buildings in Macau, it is now also one of the most popular venues for Extreme Sports and Adventure.

The AJ Hackett group, the pioneers of bungee jumping, has introduced a fantastic adventure sure to give anyone who tries it a 100% natural high.

The Skyjump was introduced a month ago. Marc Nelson and I and the Sports Unlimited group were fortunate enough to be one of the first to try this terrifying yet thrilling stunt which is on its way to being listed in the Guinness Book of World Records, under the "World's Highest Commercial Decelerator Descent" category.

It's a 764-foot drop that will get you from the top of the tower to the ground in about 15 seconds.

Here's how you do it:

First you go up 61 stories in an elevator. At the Skyjump desk, you sign waivers, strap on your harness, listen to instructions from the jumpmaster and then off you go! But I left out some of the important details: You take a deep breath, you don't look down when you stand on the edge of the platform, you don't entertain any fears and you trust the experts that everything's set for a safe and one-of-a-kind adventure.

[illegible]

The success rate is 100%; there hasn't been a single accident. And we were pleasantly surprised to find that a Filipino, Elson Cagalingan, is the head of all the Macau Tower Adventures. After our first jump, we got more confident and went for a second leap, this time stepping out backwards.

Needless to say, it was a super fun and exhilarating adventure.

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mman, Mico. Rodjun, Sergio,
o, we're just friends... *po*.

ne & Tail
Tail

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e a boyfriend/girlfriend?
ka lang a...) *Si* Lorenzo and

o to for advice? *Si* Tita Jean
a V., *kasi* they're so high...

T TWO WEEKS HAVE

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No, but people are always
se of my looks. It's not fair!

for fun? The Alchemist, Pur-
Sophie's World, Rich Dad Poor
l My Cheese? and The Ugly
's me, *noh? Ako yung bibe*!
ly? Yes, very. I'm so tired of
t, enormous bell.
wearing? *Oy ha! Walang*
e from Zara, and pajamas

e in The Big
ccording to

my research, it is highly improbable that a single spontaneous event leads to the creation of the entire universe. *O ha! Nakapasa yata akong* NEAT!

What's a name you'd rather be called? Lafawnduh Lily-Go-Yap-Champ-Lui-Pio

What is right next to you? A bell!! Duh!!!!!

Where do you want to go on your honeymoon? Sa State.

You mean United States? *Hindi*!! *Sa* State! Duh!!!

Have you ever won any special awards? Actually, a lot. Binibining Bukid '76. Super!'s Oh! Caption, My Caption! Contest, MTV VJ Hunt, and a dog show.

Any message to your family and friends? Well, may gusto *akong sabihin sa aking* daddy. Dad, *utang na loob, patigilin niyo na sa pag-aararo si inay*. K? And to my friends, all I want to say is L.I.B.Y.A.—Love is Beautiful; You Also.

Ms Kuba is misunderstood. She is a gem in a sea of plastic characters that bombard our primetime screens. She is the most insightful, deep, and meaningful person we've met, and when she dies, we're sure they'll all say, "*Kawawa naman si* Kampie, *in*-attack *ng* bell."

Catch Kampanerang Kuba weekdays, 8:30 p.m. only on ABS-CBN.

Photography: RAYMUND ISAAC
Styling: JENNI EPPERSON
Makeup: JUAN SARTE III
Sittings editor: DAVID MILAN
ANNE CURTIS WEARS PETIT MONDE

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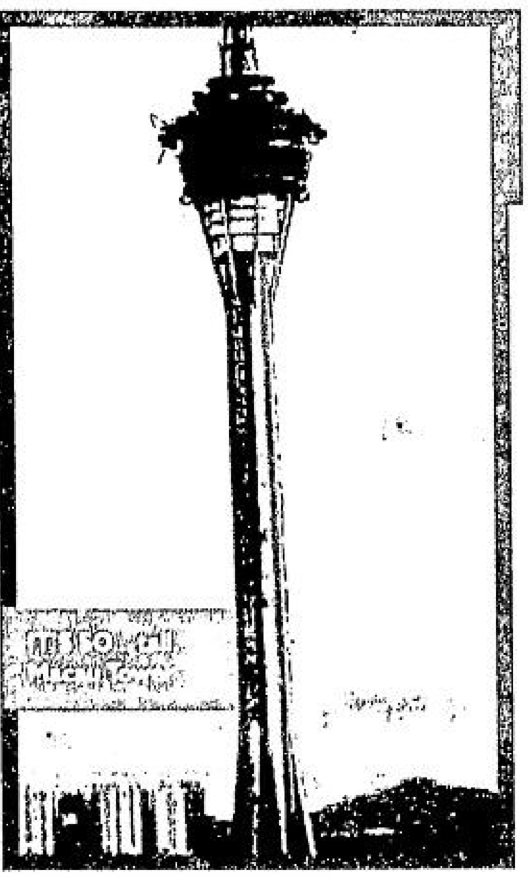
comes a true pleasure once you first experience That Day. It will eventually come; That Day is totally different from the first day of moving in, for it will be marked by a strange, but groovy kinda feeling when you look around at your new pad, after dinner perhaps, and say to yourself, Welcome home.

Now pour out the imaginary champagne.



rom the Skyjump we also
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Macau Tower 61 floors
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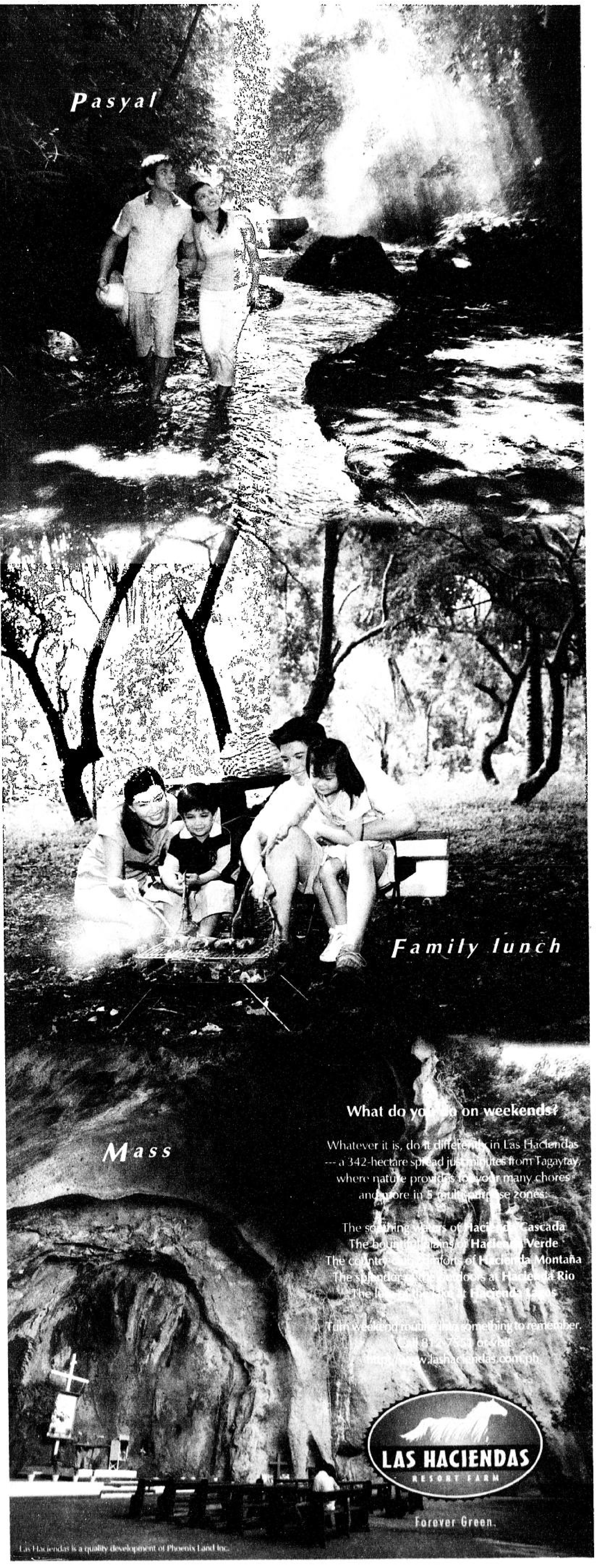

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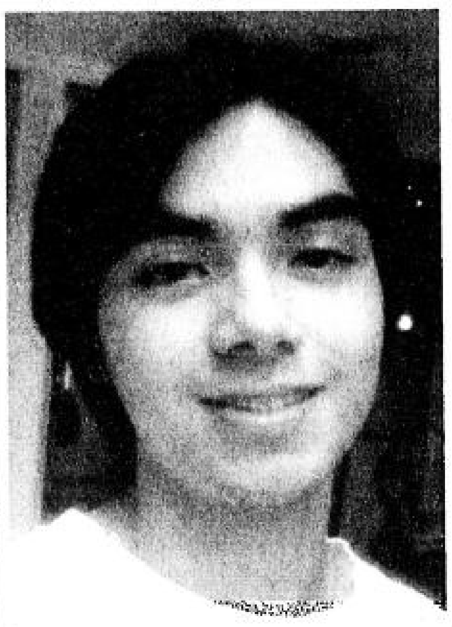
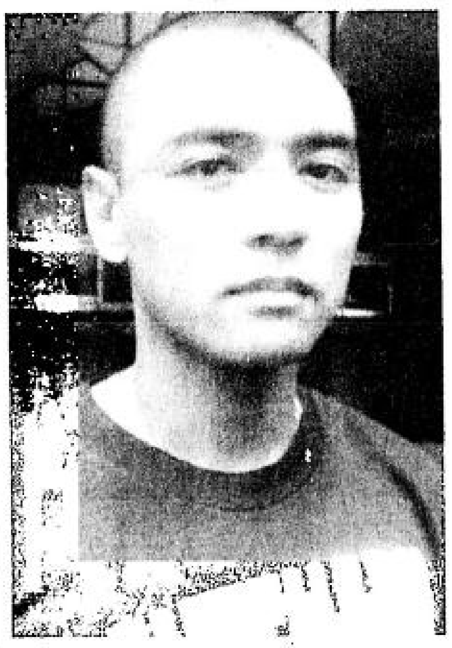


Maiko Cabailo

The big thing about me is: my clothes...I like it comfy and casual
I wish my brother was: Iverson. Maybe he'd teach me some moves and be good as him
If I was in a house with 12 strangers I'd: be quiet at first but show my "true" attitude later on! ;-)
If I were Big Brother: I'd bring all the pretty girls in town with me
E-mail me at: maiko_cabailo@yahoo.com

Chia Yulo

The big thing about me is: my appetite
I wish my brother was: Vin Diesel
If I was in a house with 12 strangers I'd: freak out and create drama all over the house!
E-mail me at: icequeen1289@yahoo.com



Marnie Marasigan

The big thing about me is: my ego
I wish my brother was: Bill Gates
If I was in a house with 12 strangers I'd: convince them to break out before we all went crazy
If I were Big Brother: I would have all the models join our wild crazy parties!
E-mail me at: marnie_marasigan@hotmail.com

Cristina Puyat

The big thing about me is: my *toot* ha ha ha!
I wish my brother was: Santa Claus
If I was in a house with 12 strangers I'd: get to know them well and throw a partee!
E-mail me at: cris_puyat@yahoo.com

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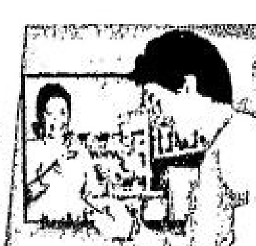

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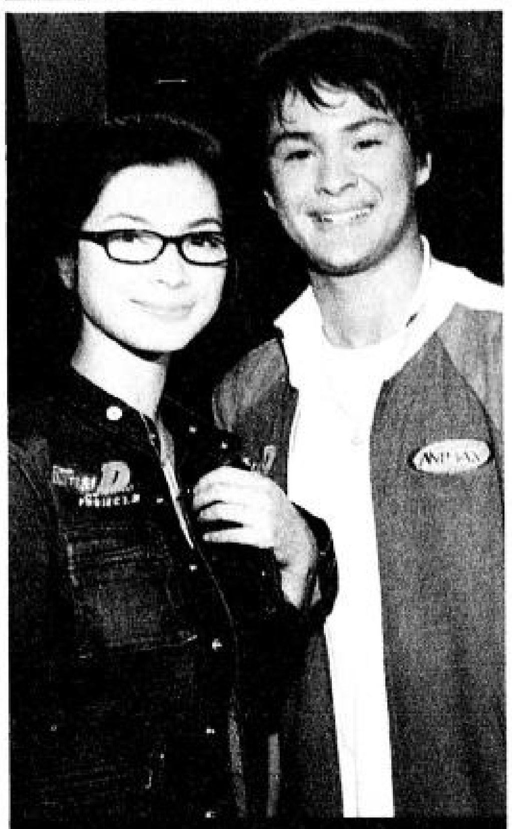
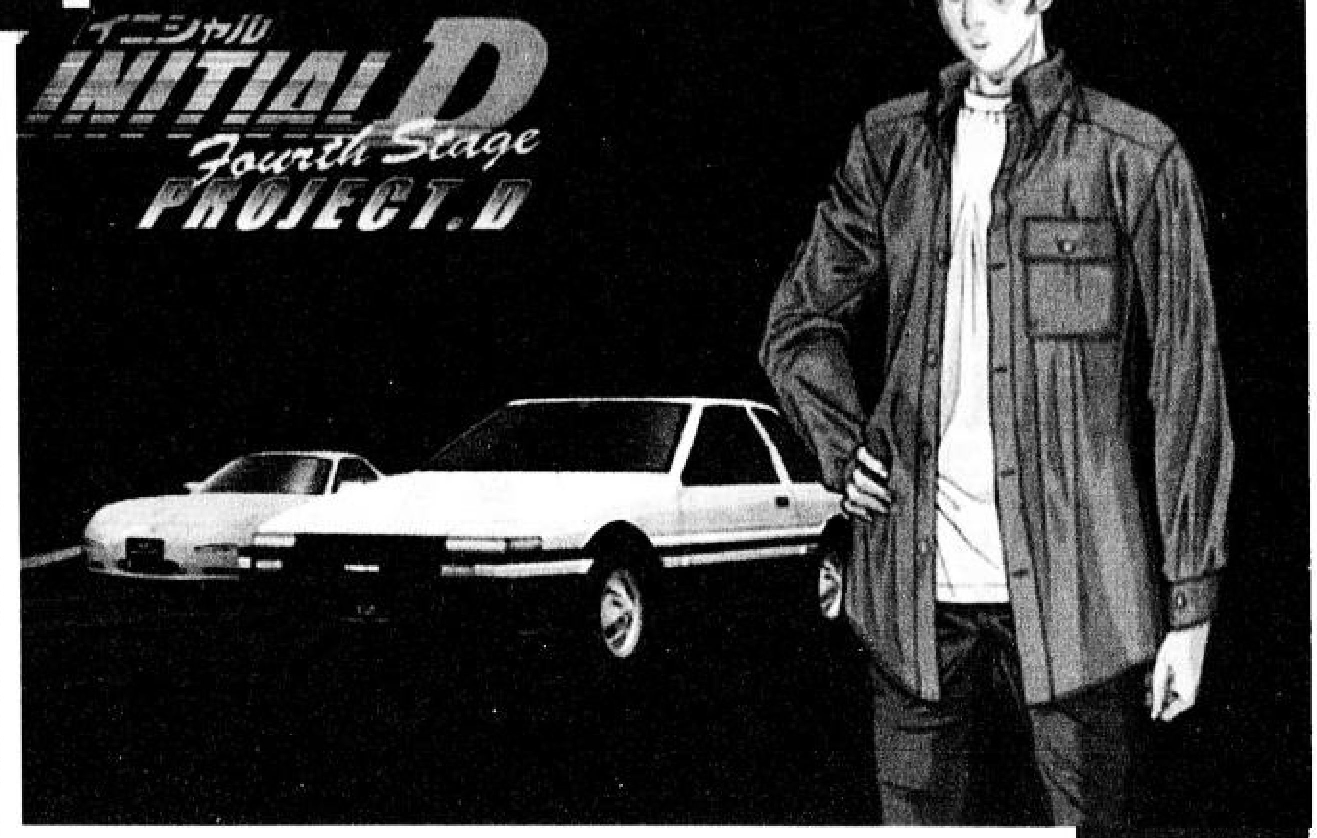
Latest rock in the Initial D universe is a triumph



Awesome animation? Check. Involving narrative? Check. Effective dubbing? Check. Are you ready to get addicted?



ANIMAX ASIA brings to Manila their most action-packed gem yet

By James Gabrillo

CONSIDERING CHALLENGING SOME punk on some mountain road with uncovered gutters? Easy there, cowboy. Why don't you sit on the couch, turn on the tube, and switch to something worth a second look. Tune in to a show that'll give you the same amount of satisfaction.

The Story

Takahashi Ryousuke has always dreamed of becoming a legend amongst street racers. With the conception of a team of highly capable drivers named Project D, this dream is finally turning into a reality. Ryousuke supervises the brilliant Takumi, voiced by racecar champ **Matteo Guidicelli**, who dominates the downhill races with his AE86. Together, the talented group of racers set out for expeditions outside the Gunma region to face formidable foes.

Angel Locsin voices the character of Kyoko Iwase, a skilled uphill driving ace for Nobuhiko's Team. Kyoko was originally the fastest on Nobuhiko's team, but after racing against Keisuke Takahashi, she has fallen in love with the blonde racer, eventually creating a conflict of interest between defeating Project D, and supporting her love.

The Animation

Mixing 2D graphics with 3D models of cars, the series' visuals are one-of-a-kind. Both the cel-shading rendering and CG animation bring out the realism and intensity of the themes. Every detail is clearly distinguished making this season's hand-drawn animation the best so far.

The Sound

The Eurobeats, which are carefully selected, stream smoothly with the visuals. I can't help but nod my head whenever hearing the tunes, effectively setting up the climactic racing scenes.

The Value

A classic underdog of the old challenging the newer styles of today—this anime series is a winner. I've found myself rewatching the episodes again and again—the character development alone is worth one's time. Look out for the intense racing from mountain to mountain that's always down to the wire that you'll be wriggling in your seat like a true blue fan boy.

During the premiere episode last Sunday, team Project D found a new locale, with the racers trying out the course and challenging the local team. Tomorrow, the second episode will feature main races, with Ryousuke conversing about how each driver comes up with a line of attack to champ against an adversary. Feel the hype, and be a part of the race by not missing this series.

Initial D: Fourth Stage airs every Sunday, 9 p.m. exclusively at Animax. Wanna know more? Check out http://www.animax-asia.com

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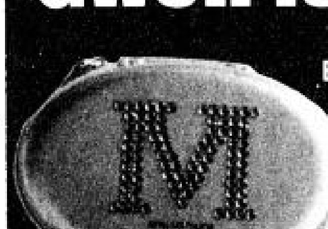
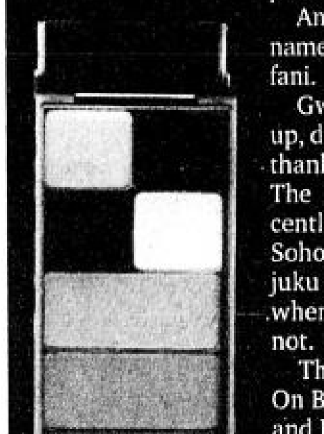
Gwen loves Shu



This Shu



is bananas

By Pam Pastor

THERE'S NO DOUBT about it—Japanese cosmetic giant Shu Uemura has been conquering show business too. Even more so this year.

Shu Uemura did the on-set makeup for the highly anticipated "Memoirs of a Geisha," designed and created Madonna's (Madonna!) Mink False Eyelashes for her Re-Invention World Tour and even gave Oprah 200 pairs of false mink eyelashes.

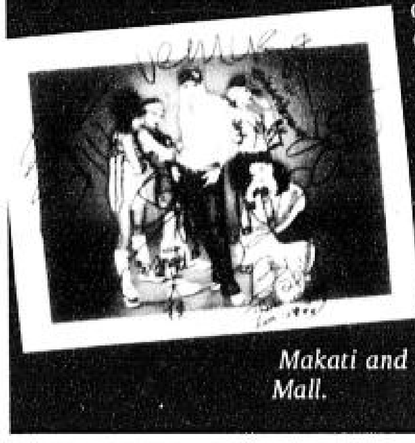
And now, Shu Uemura has another big name to add to its list of fans: Gwen Stefani.

Gwen, who used to do her own makeup, discovered the magic of Shu Uemura thanks to makeup artist Kathy Jeung. The Harajuku Girls, Gwen's posse, recently visited the New York Shu Uemura Soho Boutique and created the Harajuku Palette, which they use everywhere—whether they're performing or not.

The Harajuku Palette includes 3 Glow On Blushes in P Orange 53, P Brown 77 and P Amber 83; 4 Pressed Eyeshadows in P Beige 810, M Brown 868, P Brown 873 and P White 910. These colors can easily be blended to create everyday looks.

Check out the Harajuku Palette at Shu Uemura Counters. The Beauty Stylists there can help you customize them.

As if people aren't already in love with Shu Uemura's eyelash curler—the brand's all-time bestseller (with hundreds of thousands of pieces sold every month)—it has been recreated in two new and hard-to-resist forms: Nickel Black and 24K Gold. Head to the nearest Shu Uemura counter for these limited edition eyelash curlers.



All products are available at Shu Uemura counters in Rustan's Makati and Rustan's Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

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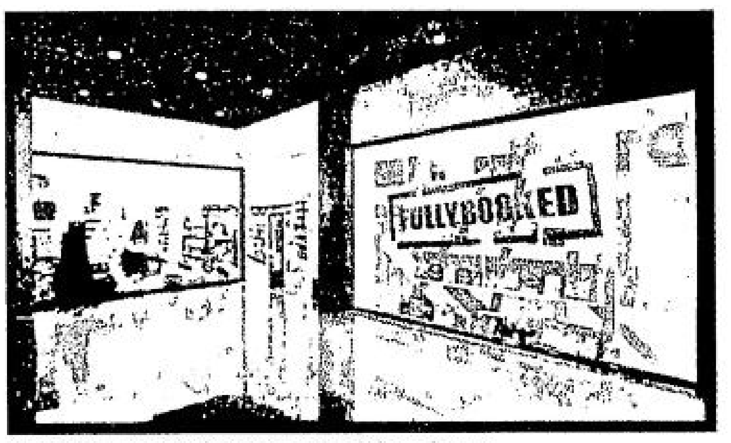
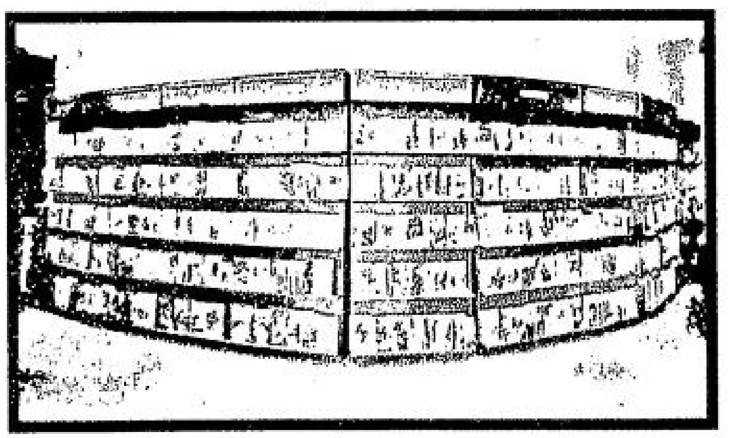


FULLY Booked is full but anybody's welcome.



THERE'S so much to choose from! Exclamation point!

By James Gabrillo
and Pepe Diokno

WHEN LITTLE JAMES AND little Pepe were growing up, they craved for Ninja Turtles action figures, family computers, Magnolia ice cream and ... books. As they grew up, they hopped from one bookstore to another, in search of a place that not only grants an extensive and cool collection of titles, but also a sanctuary for kiddos where they'll feel right at home. In short, a Disneyland of books.

Fast forward almost a decade, and Little James and Little Pepe are now quite grown up—still thirsty for a haven where they can feel groovy being geeks. Slash that. We mean "eager learners."

Enter Fully Booked Greenhills. Shelves and shelves of books of every possible subject. An awesome, inviting atmosphere never before felt in any store. A dandy spiral staircase. And cute, helpful staff. Yahoo!

It's heaven—but not just for us. The basement is filled with graphic novels, action figures. There's even a bust of Yoda, which Pepe intends to keep to himself. (Hands off, reader.) We saw a kid there who looked like his eyeballs were alive, proof that it's heaven for the other "kids" too.

The first floor's more adultsy: Maxims and books on Italy. You'll find the classics here too, and those chick novels about buying shoes, and attracting men, or something. The wrestling books are on the second floor, along with nice coloring books and the Harry Potters and stuff (like archery books, and books on Philippine History). We intend to set up camp on the third floor, where the film, design and photography books are.

The store is a reminder of how you can never—never, never, ever—replace a good book. You can't substitute the intimacy of flipping through pages and pages of whatever topic you're inclined to. Fully Booked Greenhills is a big place, but it makes you feel like you're in your own bed with a cup of hot something. (Yes, it's mushy, but the feeling is priceless.)

Come and set up camp with us at Fully Booked Greenhills. It has a basement, and three floors of everything from comic books to cook books. It is located at the new Promenade area in Greenhills Shopping Center.

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24 sleepless hours of Pinoy comic book creativity

By James Gabrillo and Pepe Diokno

"HEY, LET'S CREATE A 24-PAGE COMIC book in 24 straight hours!"—Jaime Bautista to Elbert Or, or vice versa. If it were two other people, this'd be the response: "You're crazy." But it's Jaime and Elbert—and they are crazy, but in a good way. They're taking on the First Philippine 24-Hour Comic Book Challenge on Oct. 28 and 29 at Coco Aroma in White Beach, Puerto Galera.

What they're going to do is capture different fighting poses and techniques inspired by *kali* and *arnis* (the Pinoy martial art, kids!). Then they're going to try weave compelling stories with what they've captured. They're going to fuse creative visual storytelling with indigenous Philippine martial arts and folklore to give us something we've never seen before.

It's not just going to be "Hey, look at those two guys brush their teeth ... now they're drawing ... now they're scratching ..." The event is going to be filled with music, art, kicks, and wooden sticks. Jean Paul Zialcita, an *arnis* practitioner and musician hopes this attempt to create kali- and arnis-inspired art will result in the first body of work of its kind and will pave the way for more creative collaborations of this nature.

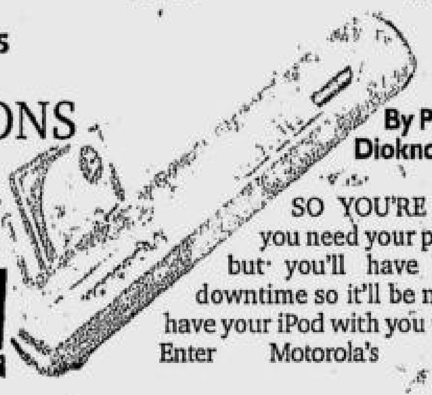
We know you're all probably thinking, "But I'm not yet ready to show my artistic and martial arts skills to the world!" Kids, don't fret 'cause *Kuya* Jaime and *Kuya* Elbert are kicking off the whole event with a free comic book workshop. Aside from that, respected community elder Gerbacio Manongsong and his son Gregorio, "Ang Tagapagmana," will demonstrate an ancient, exotic fighting style of stick-fighting that has been passed on through their family for generations.

Put all of these together and you've got a kickass showcase of Pinoy creativity that definitely shouldn't be missed.

The 1st Philippine 24-Hour Comic Book Challenge is made possible through the collaboration of Likha Communications Consulting, Nautilus Comics, Digipost, and Coco Aroma. Call Niña Terol of Likha Communications Consulting at (0917) 644-45-66 for details.

SUPER! SELECTIONS

Rock Mo 'To!



By Pepe Diokno

SO YOU'RE OUT, you need your phone, but you'll have some downtime so it'll be nice to have your iPod with you too. Enter Motorola's ROKR phone—the first-ever phone with iTunes in it. You can put up to 50 songs in the small thing. It has 3D surround sound speakers, digital camera with 4x zoom, video, J2ME games, removable memory, and bluetooth. You can get up to eight days of battery life (on standby). I'm thinking, it's everything. (But then I'll sound like Britney Spears.)

But it is everything. They've finally solved the "I'm working out but I look like I'm on vacation 'cause I have too much with me" problem. Thank you, Moto.

Here's even better news: Buy a MOTOMUSIC phone between Sept. 15 and Oct. 30, 2005 and you can win a trip to Australia to watch the Foo Fighters; one of four Motorola phones or one of 500 Foo Fighters CDs! (Happiness: I heart Foo Fighters.)

Look at the coolest phones at http://ph.motorola.com.

'M ORE TREATS FOR A MERRIER CHRISTMAS

With the 'brrrr' months upon us, the Yuletide season can't be far behind. And with the holidays comes the task of completing one's Christmas list, an undertaking which can be very daunting especially in these difficult times. But Christmas shopping need not be a stressful chore, especially when you start off on the right foot.

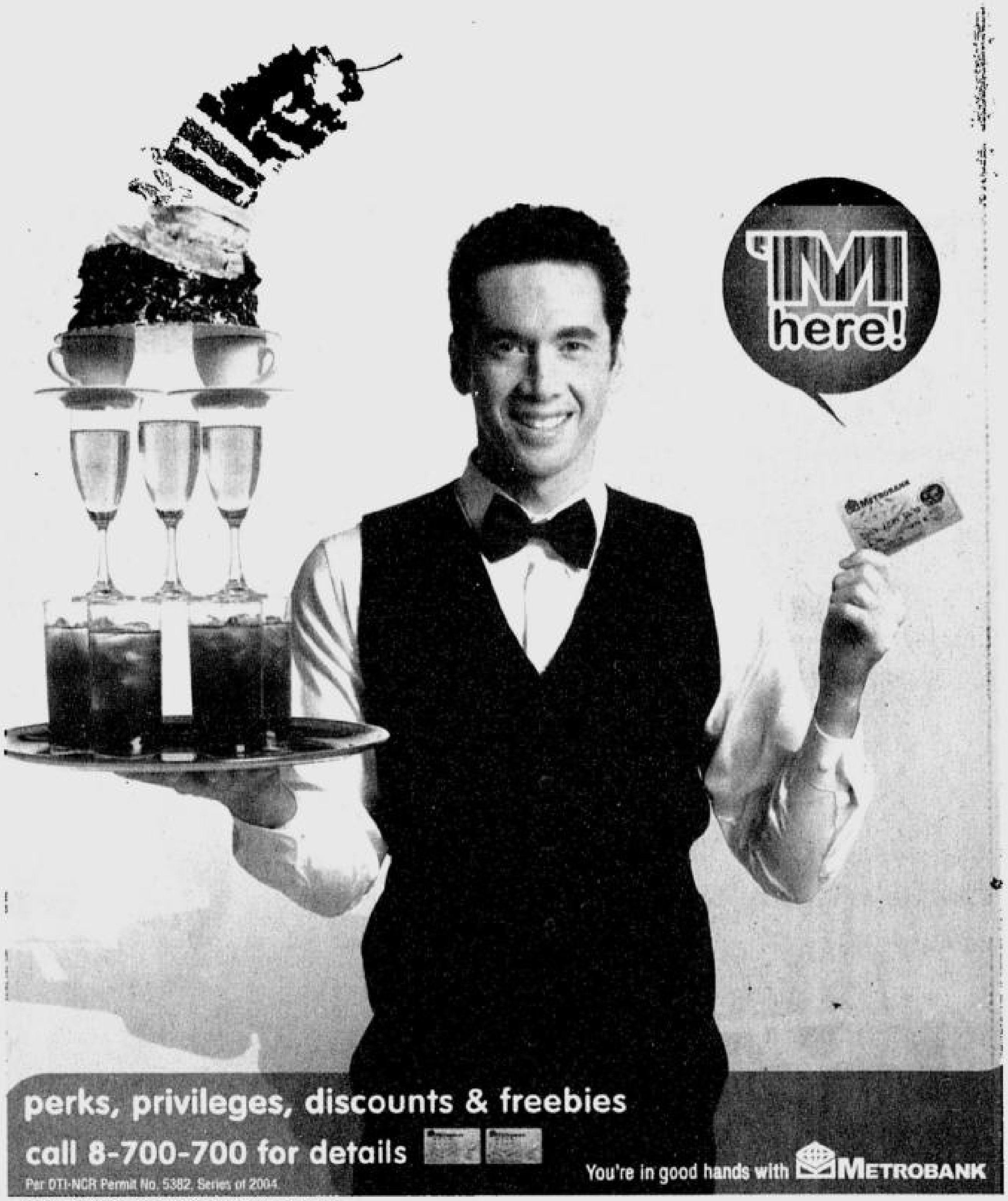
If you are privileged to own a Metrobank Credit Card, a way to de-stress your Christmas shopping is to take advantage of the perks that come with using your 'M Here card by buying gift items at 'M Here-specific boutiques all over the metro. Be the sweetest stocking-stuffer with freebies and discounts galore from boutiques such as Celine, Replay, MEMO and even more! For larger purchases (a television for Dad? A DVD player for your significant other? An MP3 player for yourself?), 'M Here cardholders can plug into the power of the perks from the country's largest appliance stores: Apple Center, BOSE, Avid, Abenson's and many others!

You've probably heard it before: never shop on an empty stomach. Many fall victim to excessive retail therapy due to hungry bellies, buying extra gifts 'just in case'. Before embarking on a holiday shopping spree, drop by your favorite restaurant or café and load up on some yummy for your tummy. Metrobank Credit Card holders can maximize their pre-shopping dining experience with their 'M Here card. To get a taste of the crème de la crème of the culinary crop at very affordable prices, flash your card at 'M Here-specific establishments for palatable privileges and perks. Sink your sweet tooth into a free serving of French macaroons from Bizu, load up on a free glass of red wine and dessert from Museum Café, feast on free dessert from Burgoo and so much more!

Most importantly, after a bout of budget-wrestling and gift-hunting, it is essential to reward yourself with an hour or two at a spa or wellness center. But these indulgences need not be expensive—'M Here cardholders get the most pampered and privileged deals from the country's premier wellness centers. Get free facial treatments from Clarity Aesthetic Center, a free back massage from the Urban Spa, as well as discounts galore from other health and beauty establishments located all over the metro! Christmas should be a season of cheer and good times, not holiday headaches. This early in the year, get into the holiday habit and check that Christmas list to stuff your loved ones' stockings, sans the stress and the hassle. Get ahead of the gift-giving game with your Metrobank Credit Card. When it comes to perks, privileges, discounts and freebies, there's Metrobank 'M Here. Call 8-700-700 for more details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5382, Series of 2004.

Issued by Metrobank Card Corporation, a joint venture with ANZ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Premium Quality
FRESH CHICKEN
Everybody Loves Chicken
Chicken Nuggets
SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION

Superfriends Superfriends Superfriends

Pilot Ong

The big thing about me is: my heart!
I wish my brother was: my best friend JC Cuadz
If I was in a house with 12 strangers I: won't mind them and just think of the girl I love most
If I were Big Brother: I'd bring my whole *barkada* with me
E-mail me at: eternal_pilot@yahoo.com

Kat Villar

The big thing about me is: my nose according to Amir and my dreams!
I wish my brother was: Alexander McQueen
If I was in a house with 12 strangers: We'd eat all the time and be merry!!!
If I were Big Brother: I DON'T WANT TO BE
E-mail me at: kv01@yahoo.com

CC Zialcita

The big thing about me is: definitely not my eyes!
I wish my brother was: Al Pacino
If I was in a house with 12 strangers I'd: do something completely weird...
If I were Big Brother: I'd lock Brody Dalle in my house
E-mail me at: insideadementedmind@yahoo.com

Javi Marcalain

The big thing about me is: My brain???
I wish my brother was: Kurt Cobain
If I was in a house with 12 strangers I'd: do stuff I wouldn't do with my family! *wink* *wink*
If I were Big Brother: I'd put Courtney Love in the house
E-mail me at: javi_marcalain@yahoo.com

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For the same price as printing from film and negatives, print your digital pictures for only P7.00 per 4R print.

For a minimum of 100 prints on Kodak Royal or Edge paper, enjoy great savings when you bring your digital camera, CD or memory card with your digital files to any participating Kodak Express outlet, Island Photo or Kameraworld digital store.

Promo period is from September 20 - October 17, 2005.

Kodak

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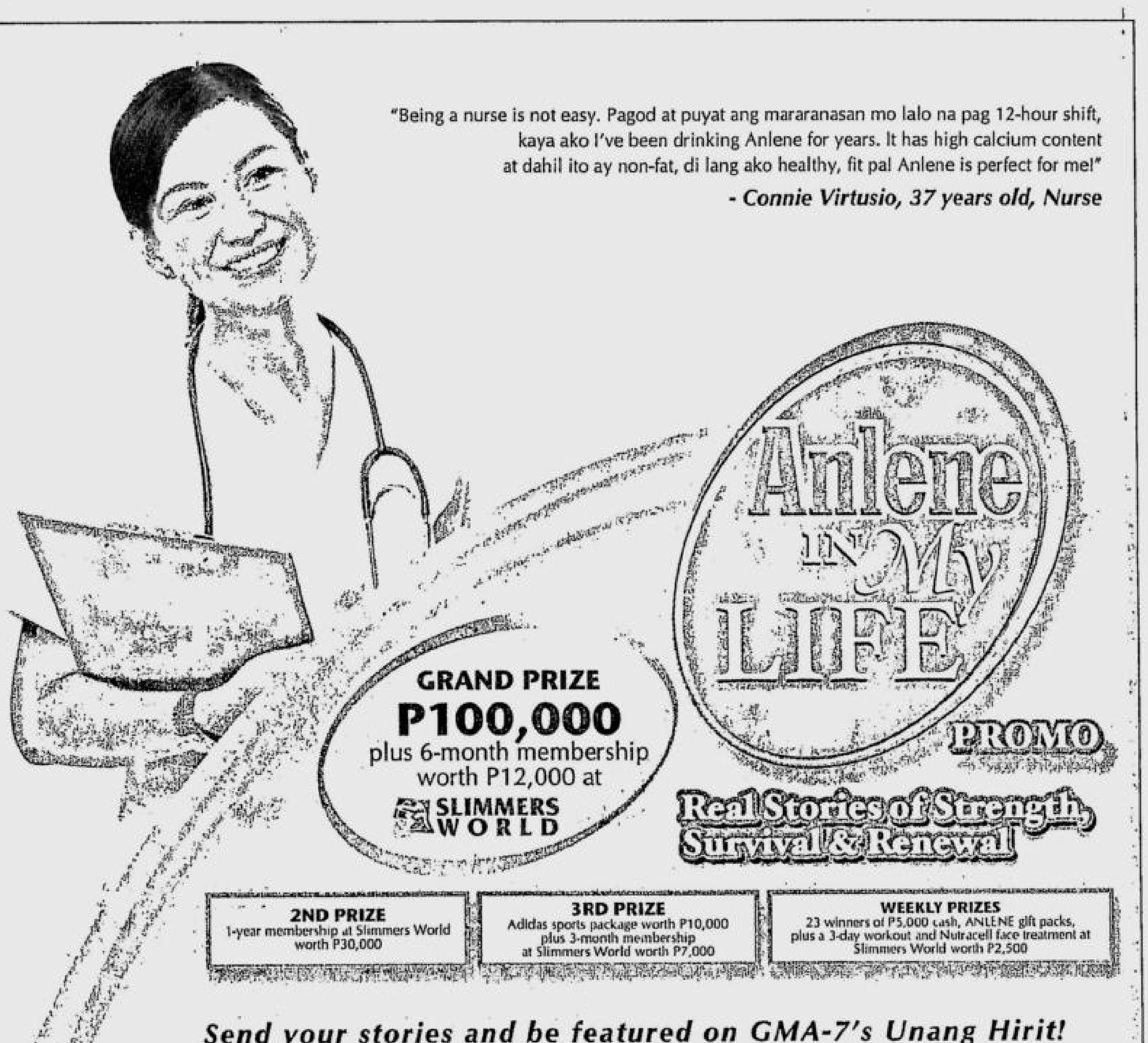
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.5483, Series of 2005



"Being a nurse is not easy. Pagod at puyat ang mararanasan mo lalo na pag 12-hour shift, kaya ako I've been drinking Anlene for years. It has high calcium content at dahil ito ay non-fat, di lang ako healthy, fit pa! Anlene is perfect for me!"
- Connie Virtusio, 37 years old, Nurse

Anlene IN My LIFE PROMO
Real Stories of Strength, Survival & Renewal

GRAND PRIZE
P100,000
plus 6-month membership worth P12,000 at
SLIMMERS WORLD

2ND PRIZE	3RD PRIZE	WEEKLY PRIZES
1-year membership at Slimmers World worth P30,000	Adidas sports package worth P10,000 plus 3-month membership at Slimmers World worth P7,000	23 winners of P5,000 cash, ANLENE gift packs, plus a 3-day workout and Nutracell face treatment at Slimmers World worth P2,500

Send your stories and be featured on GMA-7's Unang Hirit!

Mechanics:

1. Promo period runs from September 26 - December 4, 2005. Only entries received by November 25, 2005 will be included in the promo.
2. To qualify, candidates must be 30 years old and above and must be an ANLENE drinker.
3. Consumers can send in their own story or the story of someone they know. Stories must be about real-life experiences that celebrate physical strength or recovery from certain medical conditions and how ANLENE has been instrumental in living life to the fullest.
4. Send your stories, preferrably typewritten, to:

ANLENE In My Life
c/o New Zealand Milk (Philippines), Inc.
19th Floor, Cyber One Tower
11 Eastwood Avenue, Eastwood City,
Cyber Park, Quezon City 1110

Or drop in dropboxes at:
GMA Network
Edsa cor. Timog Avenue
Quezon City

5. Enclose the following:
   a. 1 recent photograph or short video that captures the essence of the person's story.
   b. 1 body label (425g or 750g) or 1 scooper (1kg) or 1 box of any ANLENE product as proof of purchase.
   c. Write the following information:

For Personal Entries
Name, age, address, contact numbers and signature
For Nominations
Name, age, address, contact numbers, relationship to nominee, and signature of sender
Name, age, address, contact numbers and signature of nominee

The prize is awarded to the one who nominated the candidate.

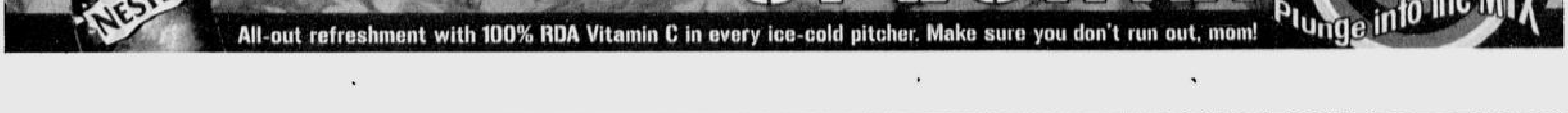
6. Criteria for judging will be as follows:
   - * Relevance to ANLENE (ANLENE's role in his/her story) -50%
   - * Uniqueness of story - 40%
   - * Significance of photograph or video to the story - 10%
7. Weekly story finalists will be read and reenacted on Unang Hirit every Monday, Wednesday and Friday starting Oct.10. There will be 3 finalists per week for 7 weeks and 2 finalists on the 8th or final week, with a total of 23 finalists.
8. New Zealand Milk (Phils.), Inc. with a BFAD representative will choose one Grand Prize winner, one Second Prize winner and one Third Prize winner from the 23 finalists.
9. Final awarding of prizes will be held at *SOP* on December 4, 2005.
10. All photographs and videos sent as entries will become the property of New Zealand Milk (Phils.), Inc. and may be used for publicity purposes.
11. In case of dispute, the decision of New Zealand Milk (Phils.), Inc. with the concurrence of BFAD shall be deemed final.
12. A consumer can send in as many stories, but a finalist can only win once.
13. All winners will be notified via phone call and registered mail.
14. All prizes are not convertible to cash. But Slimmers World memberships are transferable.
15. All prizes are tax-free.
16. All winners can claim their prizes from the New Zealand Milk (Phils.), Inc. office within 60 days of notification. Prizes not claimed within 60 days shall be forfeited in favor of New Zealand Milk (Phils.), Inc. with prior approval of BFAD.
17. Employees of New Zealand Milk (Phils.), Inc., its advertising agencies and affiliates, down to the 2nd degree of affinity and consanguinity are disqualified from joining the promo.

Improved taste
Anlene
Hi-Calcium
Anlene
Clinically Proven

FOR STRONG BONES

SLIMMERS WORLD adidas

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 1143 Series of 2005


MAKE EVERY MEAL REFRESHINGLY SPECIAL.
NESTEA
NESTEA Plunge into the Mix
All-out refreshment with 100% RDA Vitamin C in every ice-cold pitcher. Make sure you don't run out, mom!

Dearly departed

Man about town

Chuck Dy

Dear Man About Town,

My boyfriend left me today. We had been dating for several years and everyone expected, myself included, that we would end up getting married. But suddenly, without warning, he decided to end it. He explained it to me, but I can no longer remember if it was another woman, or because he needed space, or because aliens kidnapped him and turned him gay. The simple fact is, he has left me, and whatever reason was supplied will not change that or make it any easier. I feel like hurting him. Or hurting myself. Or hurting the strangers next to me holding hands and smiling because they are happy and I may never again know what THAT is like. I'm not writing to you for advice, and definitely not for sympathy. I am writing to you because if there's a small chance this gets published, then I have something to look forward to on Saturday, which gives me just the rest of the week to get through.

IN CERTAIN ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS, it was not uncommon for a man of social position, upon his demise, to be buried with a few of his favorite things to accompany the dead warrior/bureaucrat/holy man on his journey to the afterlife. These could include fanciful items such as weapon of choice, armor, snacks, money, unfinished manuscripts, favorite pet, chariot (complete with dead horses), Viking ship (if you were Scandinavian and had to sail to Valhalla), and, on occasion, his wife—her own opinion on the existential journey OR the fact that she was still breathing not necessarily being taken into account. We no longer bury wives, who are still alive, with their husbands for several obvious reasons: One, there's some kind of law against it now, and two, if there is an afterlife, most of these people are going to want to have an option (imagine waking up in Paradise next to all these gorgeous people dressed in nothing but fig leaves and you're STILL married). But the real reason we don't bury people alongside the dearly departed is because they aren't dead.

In your case, we might make an exception, because it sounds like you've chosen your plot, written your epitaph and sent out the invitations to your own funeral. Be sure to purchase a good section of cemetery real estate before your demise—one not so close to the candle wax merchants, but within walking distance to the *taho* and fishball vendors. Audition your friends for the role of eulogist, and proof all speeches to be read during the wake, making certain that there is the appropriate balance of grief and humor. I suggest a PowerPoint presentation showing slides of you in various stages of happiness to generate fantastic amounts of nostalgia. Schedule to be buried on a weekday when traffic is minimal. And for God's sake, don't get cremated, as immolation is sooo passé and the smell of burning *husi* is not pleasant.

But perhaps my sarcasm has offended you enough, my apparent insensitivity toward your seemingly drastic plight has distracted you sufficiently from your current state of self-pity and instead focused your energies on responding to my column via e-mail, calling me a hack, or a tactless moron, or worse, a typical heterosexual male. Good. Feel that tide of blood pounding from your wrist, through your neck vein, and exploding rhythmically against your temple? That's called a pulse. It means one of two things: either dead people can still feel anger (in which case the afterlife is filled with billions of souls bemoaning the celebrity status of Paris Hilton) or, more probable, that you are still alive.

Trivializing the end of a romantic relationship has never been my intent. Anyone who reads my column knows that I'm a closet romantic. I want everybody to be in love, to fall in love, to purchase love if necessary. If love were a narcotic, I'd be the most notorious dealer in the city. If love were a political candidate, I'd bribe the masses of illiterate citizens right outside the voting booths, or bus them to an engineered protest in Edsa. If love were a terrible actress cum celebrity, I'd patronize all her endorsements. Even the sanitary napkins.

In fact, the only thing I love more than love, is life. And while love IS, without a doubt, one of the most significant human experiences possible, once it starts getting in the way of life, well then, it's time to set your priorities straight.

Of course it's painful. The pain only justifies the genuine nature of your feelings towards your lover. I'd be more worried about a person who invested several years in a relationship and wasn't shattered when it ended abrupt-

DEARLY/ E4

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.5373, Series of 2005

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Kodak
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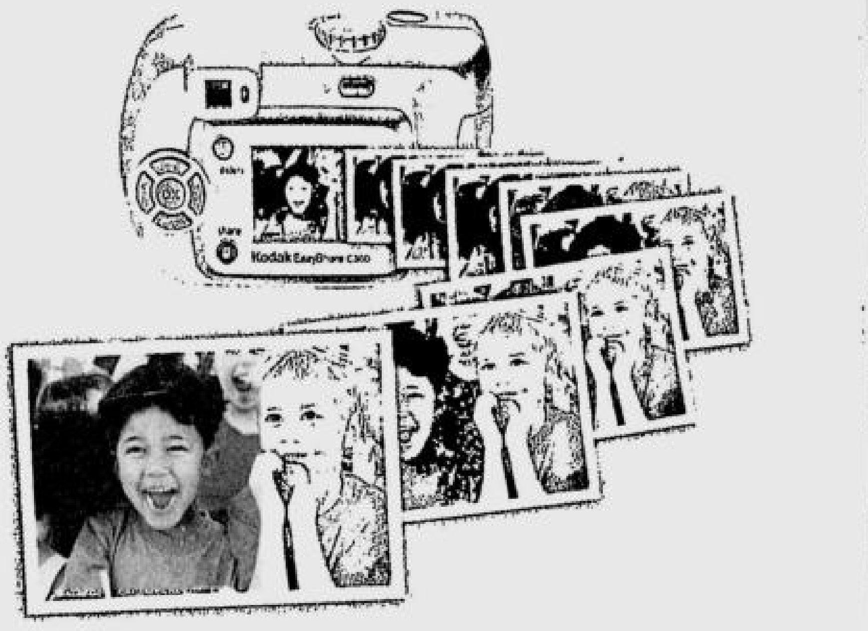

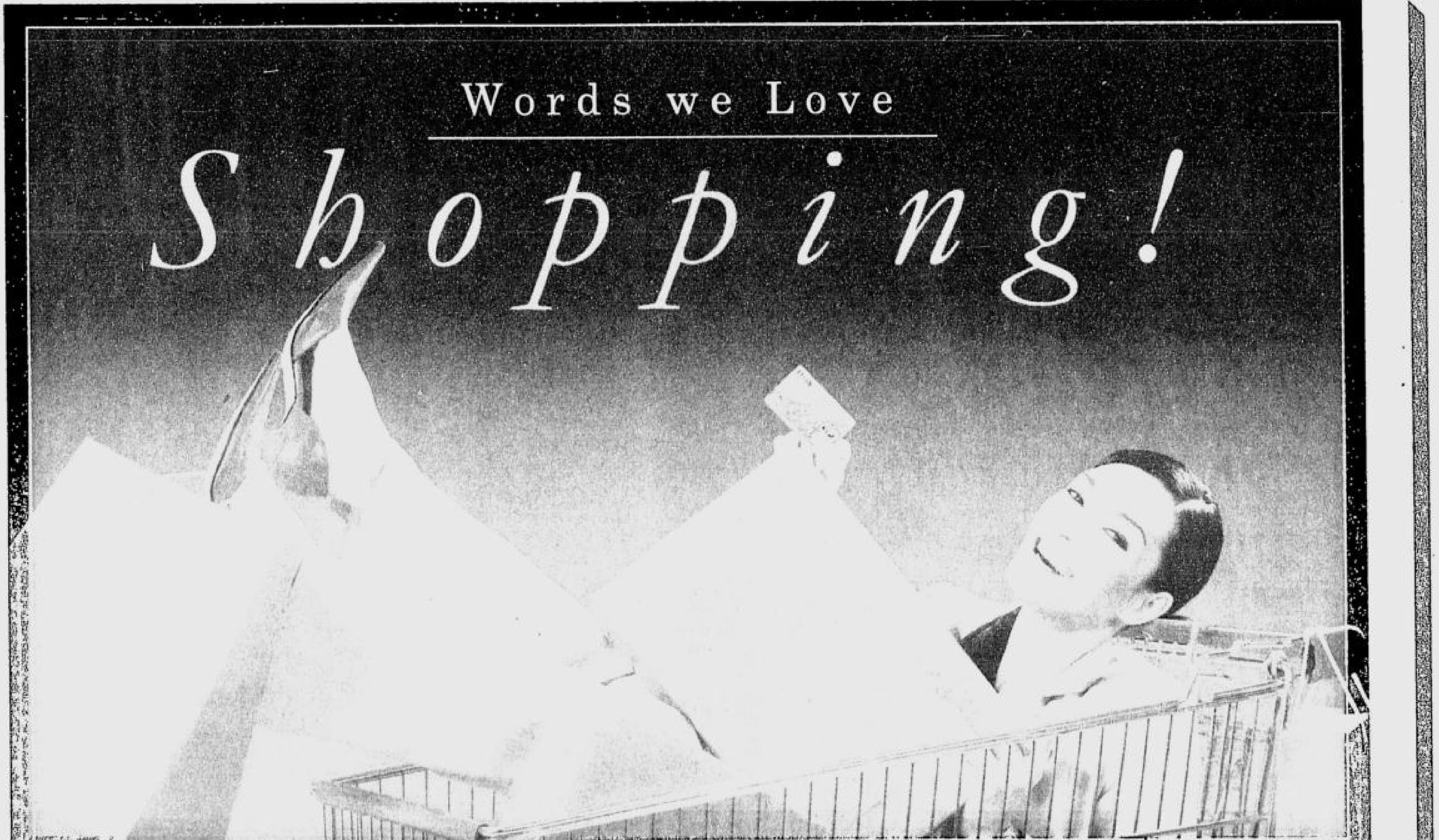

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Promo ends 30 November 2005. See flyers for details

HSBC
LOVE YOURSELF

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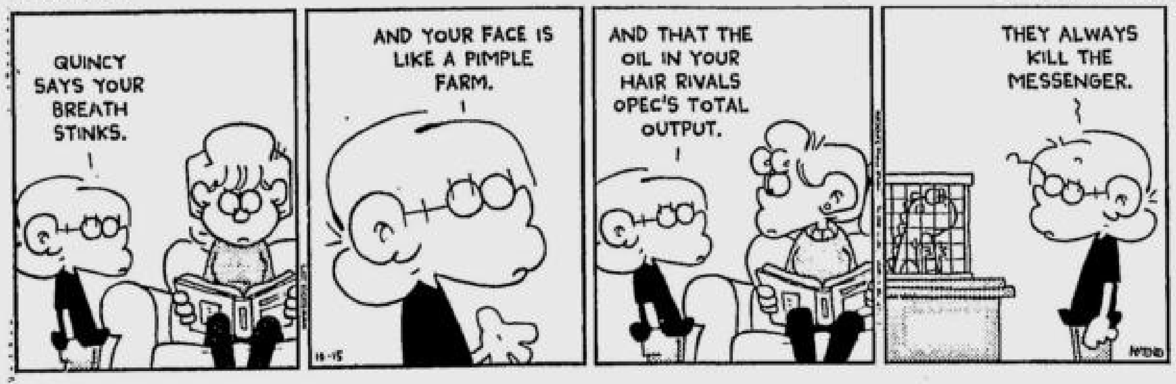
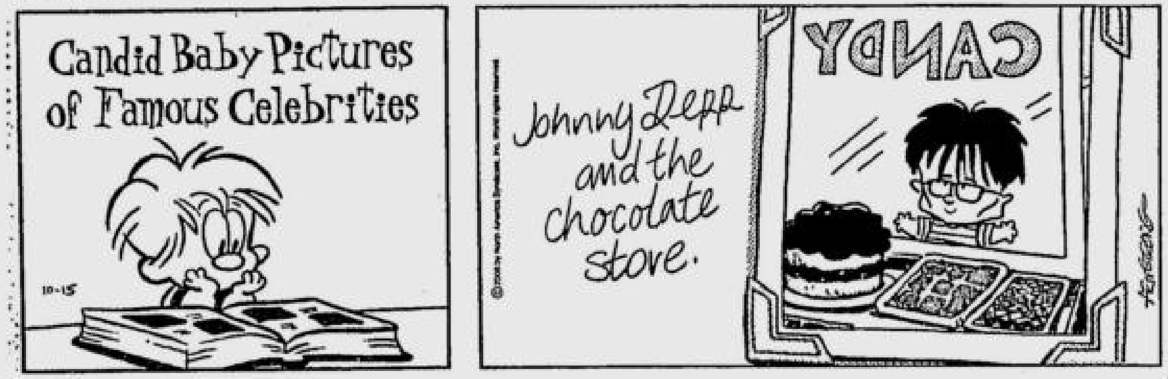
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4021. Series of 2005

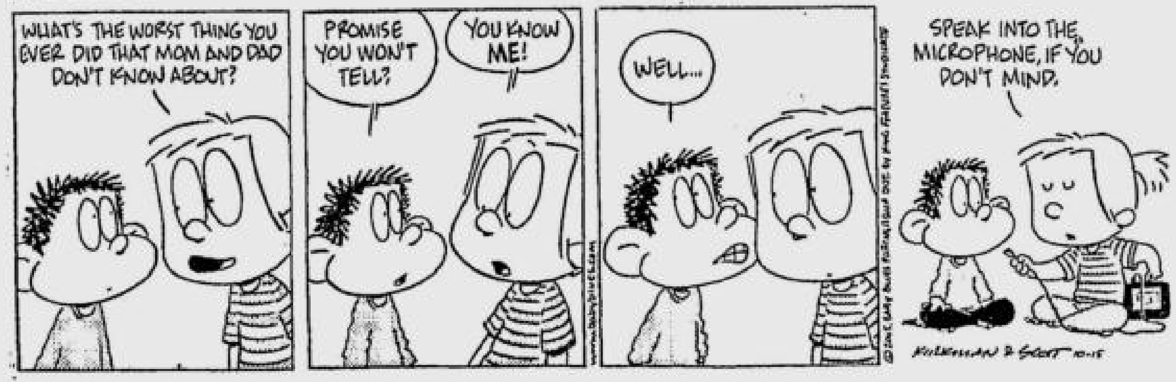
FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND


QUINCY SAYS YOUR BREATH STINKS.
AND YOUR FACE IS LIKE A PIMPLE FARM.
AND THAT THE OIL IN YOUR HAIR RIVALS OPEC'S TOTAL OUTPUT.
THEY ALWAYS KILL THE MESSENGER.

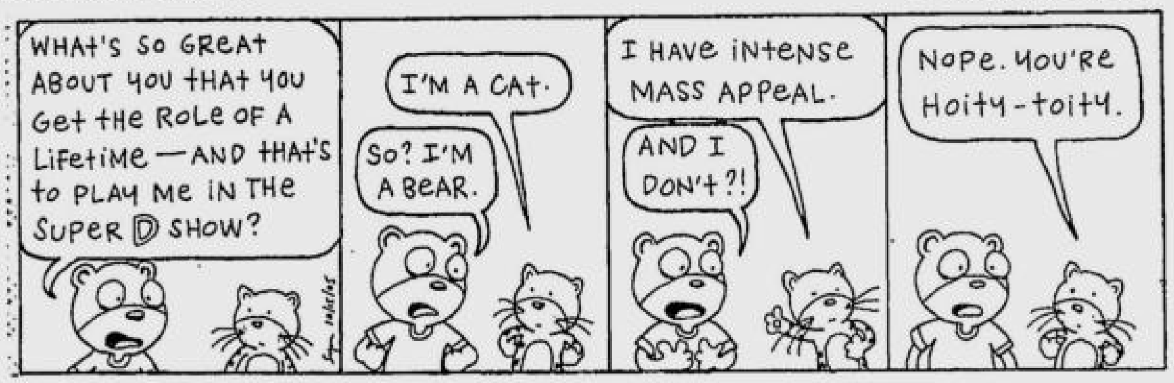
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


Candid Baby Pictures of Famous Celebrities
10-15
Johnny Depp and the chocolate store.
CANDY

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT'S THE WORST THING YOU EVER DID THAT MOM AND DAD DON'T KNOW ABOUT?
PROMISE YOU WON'T TELL?
YOU KNOW ME!
WELL...
SPEAK INTO THE MICROPHONE, IF YOU DON'T MIND.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT 10-15

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT YOU THAT YOU GET THE ROLE OF A LIFETIME — AND THAT'S TO PLAY ME IN THE SUPER D SHOW?
I'M A CAT.
SO? I'M A BEAR.
I HAVE INTENSE MASS APPEAL.
AND I DON'T?!
NOPE. YOU'RE HOITY-TOITY.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're interested in many subjects, which is why you know a lot. People see you as an authority on things. Because you're charismatic, you're a strong leader. Your opinions sometimes make you controversial, but you can handle this. People respect you. Major changes will take place in the year ahead, perhaps as significant as those in 1996.

Birthdate of: Emeril Lagasse, TV chef; Penny Marshall, actress/director, Mario Puzo, novelist.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Be patient with partners today. Instead of being critical about what disappoints you, just state what you want in a positive manner. (People close their ears to criticism.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Co-workers are difficult to work with today. People are finding fault and are discouraged. Work alone if possible. Be polite and patient to make things easier for yourself and everyone else.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Parents must be patient with children. When you're down, it's easy to pick on others or be disappointed. Remember Goethe: "Criticism does much, but encouragement does more."

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Family conversations are filled with worries and concerns. Furthermore, you might feel lonely and cut off from others. This is a temporary feeling. Tomorrow you'll feel better!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Some days the glass is half-empty; some days the glass is half-full. Today it is easy to feel discouraged. Fortunately, by tomorrow you'll feel positive again.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Worries about money and possessions concern you today. Negative impressions of life easily come to mind. It's hard to see a rainbow anywhere. Thankfully, you'll feel differently by tomorrow.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Today the planet Mercury, which rules your mental outlook, is square with stern Saturn. This makes you dwell on the negative aspects of life. Tomorrow this quality will be gone. (Whew.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Your critical faculties are very sharp today. You're capable of disciplined work and challenges that require concentration and steady effort.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Try not to dwell on heavy and difficult thoughts today. It's easy to fall into a funk. Nothing is forever. Good things pass, and, fortunately, so do bad things.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Someone older might discourage you or tell you that something can't be done. Just wait one day. Tomorrow you will see a way to achieve what you want. (You might have to say goodbye to someone.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Authority figures block your ambitions and plans now. Someone is raining on your parade. However, you are only seeing part of the picture. Tomorrow things will look more encouraging.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Travel plans and matters related to publishing, the media and higher education disappoint you today. Do not be discouraged. Your solution will come tomorrow. Use today's energy to check important details.

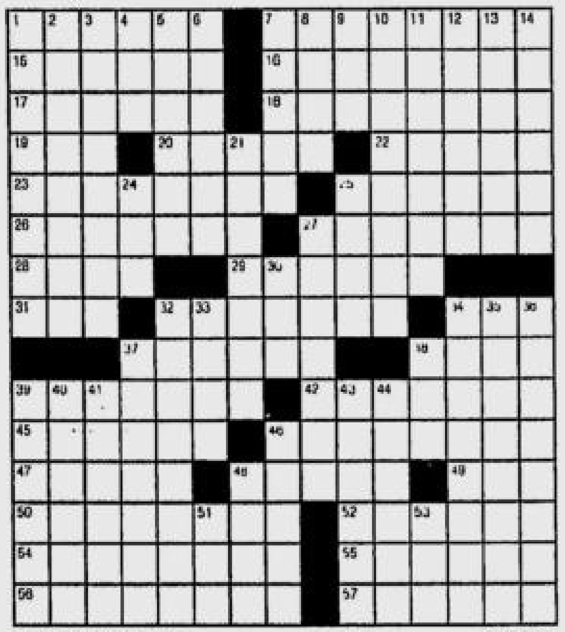
DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 50 Cent or Eminem
7 One who abandons his faith
15 Eagle in the night sky
16 Invested in knighthood's highest order
17 Grandiloquent
18 Provoking to action
19 Sucker
20 Edge along
22 Recumbent
23 Informational pamphlet
25 Come-on
26 Military landing field
27 Wrenches apart
28 Off one's rocker
29 Exhausts
31 Separated couple in Miami?
32 Irene and Vernon
34 Caress rudely
37 Disclose
38 Songstress Horne
39 More frequently
42 Turns to present another side
45 Roman magistrate: var.
46 Lab tubes
47 Postulate
48 Majorette's rod
49 Literary miscellany
50 Minute crustacean
52 Sign of twins
54 Soaking, as tea
55 Unmelodic
56 Visor
57 Hempen neckties?

DOWN

1 Vermin poison
2 Underwater zoo
3 Professes
4 Petunia for one
5 Hebrew prophet
6 Half a diameter
7 Nimble
8 Window division
9 Killer whale
10 Allowances
11 Groups of four
12 Like an opera song
13 Sawbuck
14 Lawn trimmers
21 Chest of drawers
24 Natl. network
25 Melody
27 Betrayal
30 School org.
32 Monument honoring a dead person
33 Declare positively
34 Is relevant
35 Insect sensors
36 Toasts
37 Hits the hay
38 Allow to
39 Take a stand against
40 Fictional snowman
41 Examination taker
43 Stout work shoe
44 Via ___ (Rome thoroughfare)
46 Cop's ID
48 Fleming's super spy
51 Successor of the OSS
53 Bovine comment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By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH
10/15/05

Friday's Puzzle Solved

A	L	B	A	■	A	S	T	E	R	■	W	E	L	T
T	E	A	L	■	F	E	R	M	I	■	A	L	O	E
R	A	C	I	N	G	W	I	S	C	O	N	S	I	N
A	S	H	■	O	H	I	O	■	■	G	I	A	N	T
■	■	■	E	W	A	N	■	F	E	R	N	■	■	■
R	E	D	W	I	N	G	V	I	N	E	G	A	R	■
A	L	I	E	N	S	■	Y	V	E	S	■	B	E	T
T	I	A	S	■	■	D	I	E	■	■	F	A	T	E
S	A	N	■	S	P	A	N	■	T	R	A	C	E	R
■	S	A	L	T	I	N	G	C	R	A	C	K	E	R
■	■	■	A	O	N	E	■	A	I	D	E	■	■	■
A	M	I	G	O	■	■	A	S	T	O	■	P	E	H
C	A	R	O	L	I	N	G	K	E	N	N	E	D	Y
E	L	M	O	■	M	O	R	E	S	■	O	L	G	A
S	E	A	N	■	P	R	A	T	T	■	G	L	E	N

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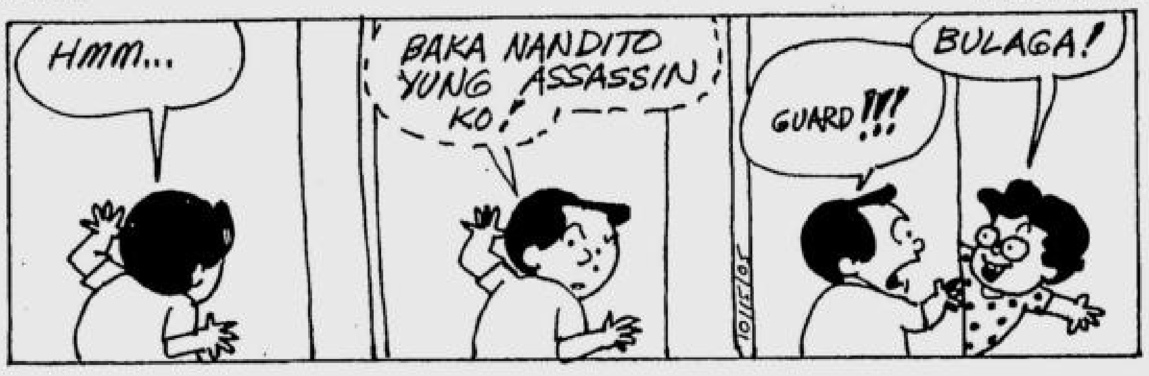
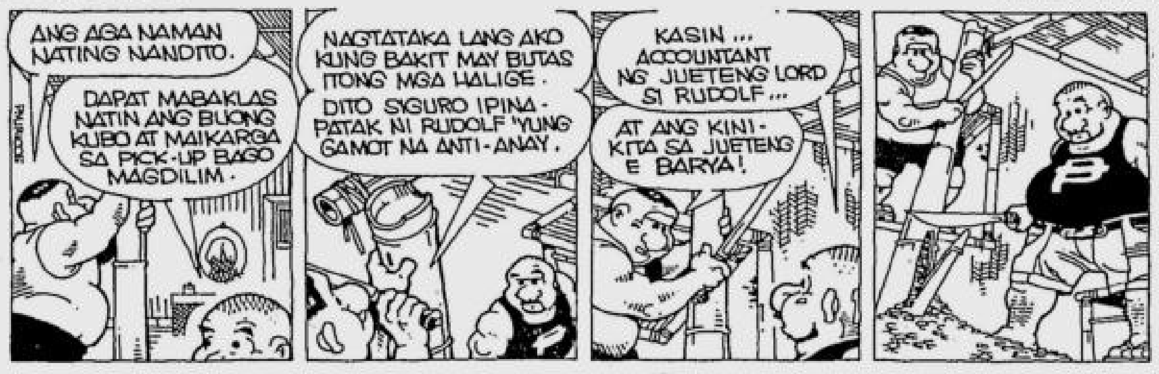
10/15/05

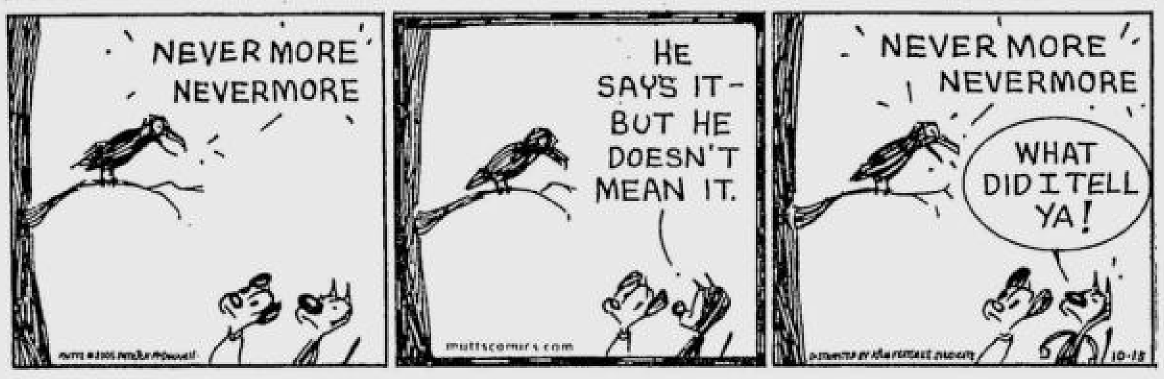
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


HMM...
BAKA NANDITO YUNG ASSASSIN KO!
GUARD!!!
BULAGA!

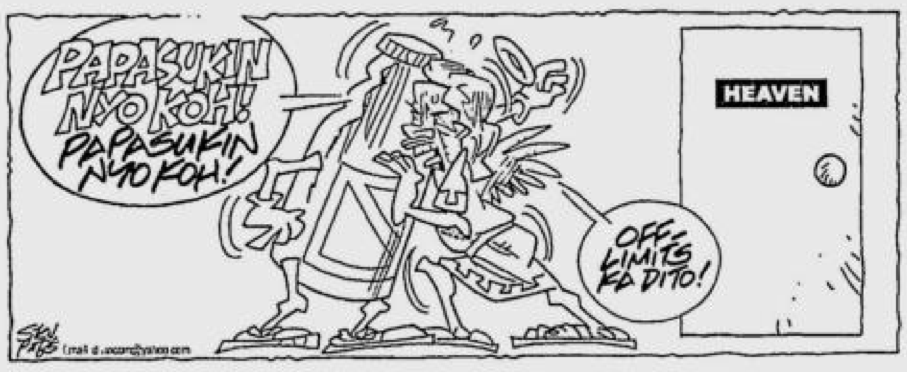
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANG AGA NAMAN NATING NANDITO.
DAPAT MABAKLAS NATIN ANG BUONG KUBO AT MAIKARGA SA PICK-UP BAGO MAGDILIM.
NAGTATAKA LANG AKO KUNG BAKIT MAY BUTAS ITONG MGA HALIGE.
DITO SIGURO IPINAPATAK NI RUDOLF 'YUNG GAMOT NA ANTI-ANAY.
KASIN ... ACCOUNTANT NG JUETENG LORD SI RUDOLF...
AT ANG KINIKITA SA JUETENG E BARYA!

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

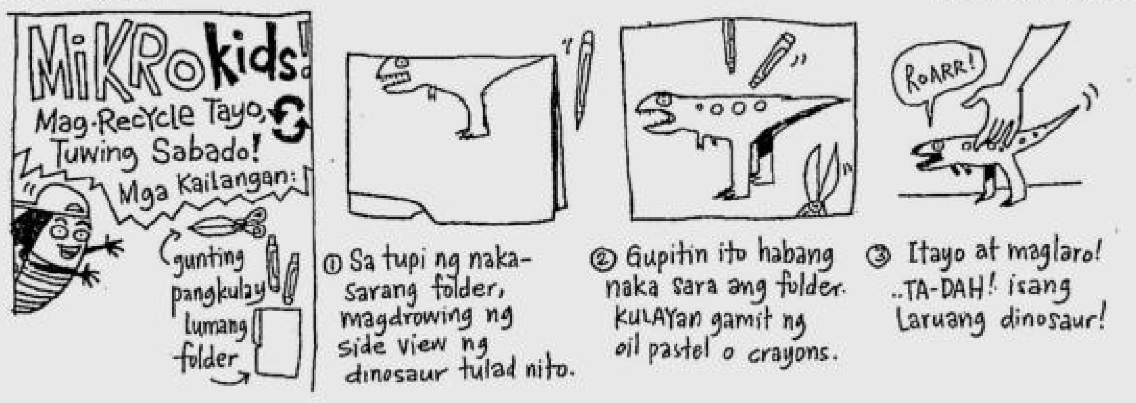

NEVER MORE NEVERMORE
HE SAYS IT - BUT HE DOESN'T MEAN IT.
muttscomics.com
NEVER MORE NEVERMORE
WHAT DID I TELL YA!
10-15

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

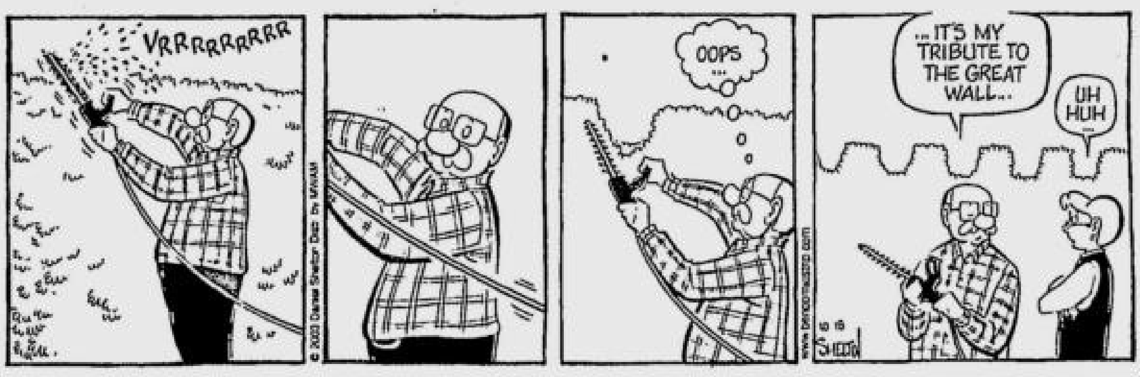

PAPASUKIN NYO KOH! PAPASUKIN NYO KOH!
HEAVEN
OFF-LIMITS KA DITO!

IN HEAVEN, THERE IS NO BEER

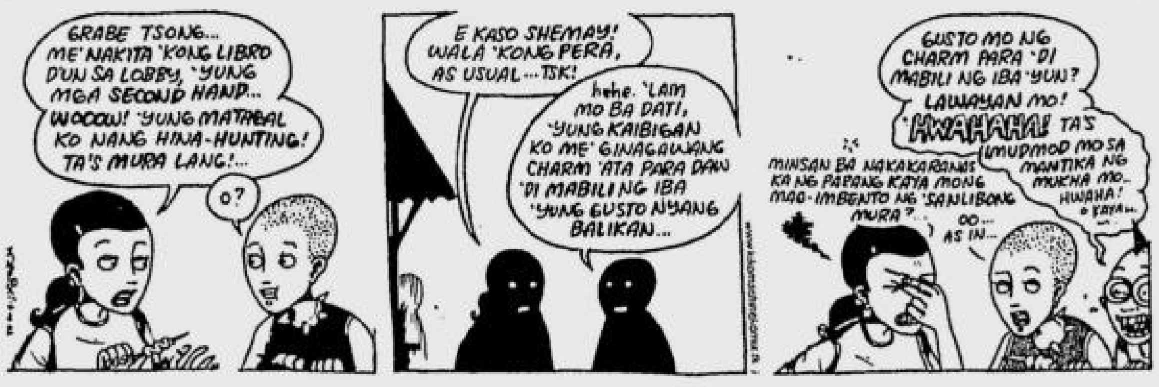
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRokids!
Mag-Recycle Tayo, Tuwing Sabado!
Mga Kailangan:
gunting
pangkulay
lumang folder
① Sa tupi ng nakasarang folder, magdrowing ng side view ng dinosaur tulad nito.
② Gupitin ito habang naka sara ang folder. KULAYan gamit ng oil pastel o crayons.
③ Itayo at maglaro! ..TA-DAH! isang laruang dinosaur!
RoARR!

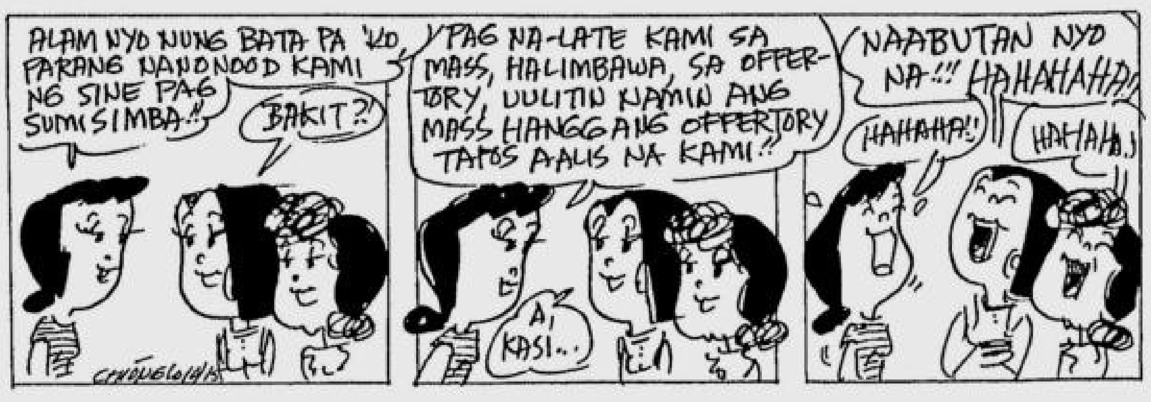
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


VRRRRRRRRR
OOPS ...
... IT'S MY TRIBUTE TO THE GREAT WALL...
UH HUH ...

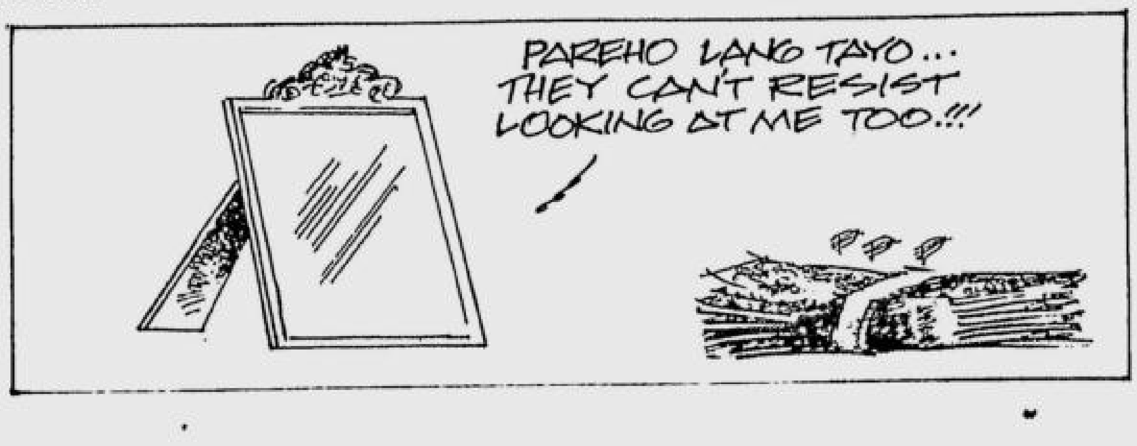
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


GRABE TSONG... ME' NAKITA 'KONG LIBRO D'UN SA LOBBY, 'YUNG MGA SECOND HAND... WOOOW! 'YUNG MATAGAL KO NANG HINA-HUNTING! TA'S MURA LANG!...
O?
E KASO SHEMAY! WALA 'KONG PERA, AS USUAL... TSK!
hehe. 'LAM MO BA DATI, 'YUNG KAIBIGAN KO ME' GINAGAWANG CHARM 'ATA PARA DAW 'DI MABILI NG IBA 'YUNG GUSTO NYANG BALIKAN...
GUSTO MO NG CHARM PARA 'DI MABILI NG IBA 'YUN?
LAWAYAN MO!
HWAHAHA! TA'S UMUPMOD MO SA MANTIKA NG MUKHA MO.. HWAHA!
MINSAN BA NAKAKARONAS KA NG PARANG KAYA MONG MAG-IMBENTO NG 'SANLIBONG MURA?
OO... AS IN...

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ALAM NYO NUNG BATA PA 'KO, PARANG NANONOOD KAMI NG SINE PAG SUMISIMBA!!
BAKIT?!
'PAG NA-LATE KAMI SA MASS, HALIMBAWA, SA OFFERTORY, UULITIN NAMIN ANG MASS HANGGANG OFFERTORY TAPOS AALIS NA KAMI!!
A, KASI..
NAABUTAN NYO NA!!! HAHAHAHA!
HAHAHA!!
HAHAHA!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


PAREHO LANG TAYO... THEY CAN'T RESIST LOOKING AT ME TOO.!!!

As the 2005 Formula 1 season draws to a climax with the upcoming race in Shanghai, Johnnie Walker takes you behind the scenes at Team McLaren Mercedes to meet the drivers and learn more about the remarkable journeys these drivers have enjoyed in the glamorous world of Formula 1.

Born in Espoo, Finland, in 1979, Kimi Raikkonen is a man in a hurry. Finland had always been more famous for its rally drivers than its racing drivers; until that is, Keke Rosberg and Mika Hakkinen came along. Hakkinen joined McLaren for the 1993 season and, five years later, he won the championship for Team McLaren-Mercedes. In 1999 he retained his crown after a close battle with Michael Schumacher.

Kimi's own inspiring and rapid journey to the top of one of the most elite group of sportsmen has led to him being recognised by Team McLaren Mercedes sponsor, Johnnie Walker, for demonstrating the qualities communicated in their "Keep Walking" message. This message aims to encourage people to strive to achieve at the highest levels, as Kimi has in Formula 1.

Raikkonen started out in karting when he was a boy and by the time he was 16 was doing it seriously with a view to making a career in the sport. In fact, in the Formula A European series, he had his first on-track rivalry with a certain Fernando Alonso, with whom he has shared the majority of this year's wins in Formula 1!

Kimi drove in the main Formula Renault championship with the Manor Motorsport team. In 10 races he won seven times and finished on the podium in all 10! He was being supported by David and Steve Robertson, the father and son management team that had just taken a young Jenson Button into Formula 1.

News of Raikkonen's ability reached Peter Sauber, boss of the Sauber F1 team, and a test was arranged at the Mugello circuit in Italy.

"You can tell straight away when you are watching something special and I very much had that feeling on that day," Sauber remembers. "Kimi was very young and inexperienced, obviously, but he was instantly quick and had total confidence and self-assurance about everything he did."

Kimi drove for Sauber alongside the highly rated and more experienced former F3000 champion, Nick Heidfeld. On his debut, in Australia, Kimi finished sixth. No need to worry too much about that licence! He was fourth in Austria and Canada and finished his rookie season in the top 10 in the drivers' championship.

Team McLaren-Mercedes, by this time, knew that Hakkinen, who had been with the team for nine seasons, was going to retire and the team chose Raikkonen and signed him up.

In his first race for his new team, at Melbourne in 2002, Raikkonen finished on the podium. He was unlucky not to score his first win in France, where he led until the closing stages but hit a patch of oil which let Michael Schumacher past. That first win came the following year in Malaysia. Kimi also finished second no fewer than seven times and ended the season second to Schumacher in the drivers' championship by only two points.

Only just 24, Raikkonen was one step from the summit of his ambition. In the 2005 Drivers' Formula 1 World Championship Kimi took the battle to the third from last race of the season in Brazil, where his old adversary Alonso took the title. The challenge for the Constructors' crown continues at the Japanese and Chinese Grands Prix.

Kimi's personal trainer and therapist says: "He is incredibly competitive in everything he does. If I am trying to test his limits or his endurance, all I have to do is make it into a competition and he becomes almost super-human. I don't think I have encountered many people with the same single-minded focus or determination. You can see why he is such a formidable rival."

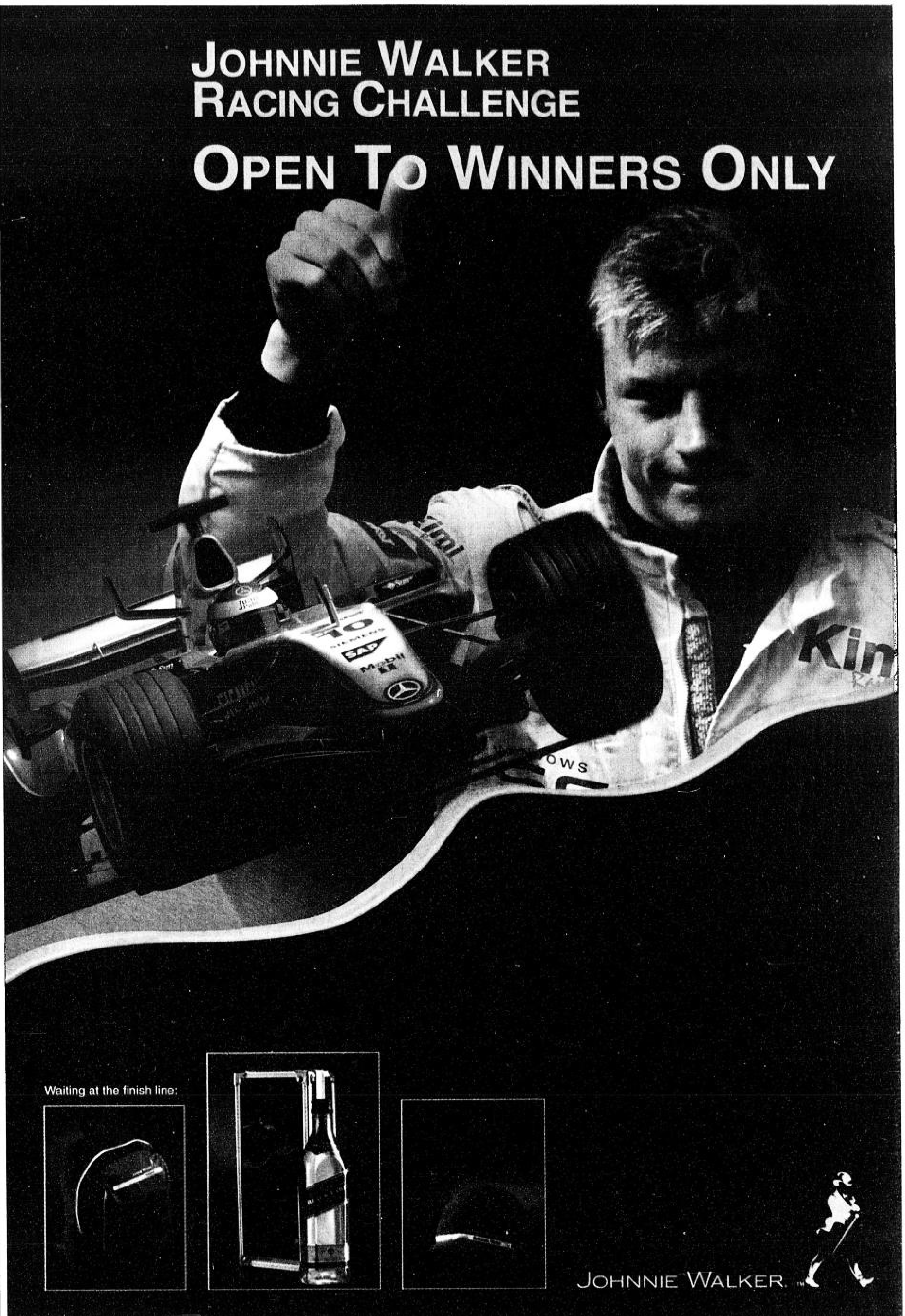
"Kimi's competitive determination is a core quality that Johnnie Walker are looking to communicate through our "Keep Walking" message," says Global Brand Director Ben Anderson. "Kimi is one of the most inspiring and driven talents in Formula 1 and we hope his story will encourage others to dream of one day being extraordinary, and take their first step towards making this dream a reality".

Raikkonen, you can be sure, is a likely winner of the second Chinese Grand Prix.

"I'm looking forward to going to Shanghai again. I remember I could hardly believe it the first time I saw it. It is away from the centre of Shanghai, in a place that is not so built up. But suddenly you come across this amazing modern structure that looks likes something out of a James Bond movie. Shanghai itself is also fascinating and I'm looking forward to having a closer look if I get the time.

Team McLaren Mercedes can be seen in action this month in Shanghai on Oct 16th. They are working with Johnnie Walker, one of their Corporate Partners and the world's leading deluxe Scotch whisky, to promote responsible drinking. Control, skill and judgement are vital qualities in Formula 1 but they can be just as important when you are enjoying a few drinks.

ADVT



take the lead, drink responsibly

Get a chance to win a Free Trip to the Malaysian Grand Prix.

As proud partner of Team McLaren Mercedes, Johnnie Walker now brings you the thrill of Formula One racing to your favorite bars. Compete and you could soon be sporting a black Johnnie Walker wristband–the new symbol of prestige–or exclusive Johnnie Walker Racing merchandise such as a racecar driver's cap, a backpack or a bottle of Johnnie Walker Black Label in a Limited Edition F1 case. Best of all, you get a shot at the most coveted prize: a trip to the Sepang Grand Prix to experience the full-throttle excitement and glory of F1 – live.

To qualify, just order a shot or bottle of your favorite Scotch whisky. Because only winners choose Johnnie Walker.

Photo may vary from actual prizes.

See posters for details. Promo lasts from October 20 to December 17, 2005. Per DOH-BFAD No. 1157, Series of 2005.

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Check the Lifestyle Section every other week for the latest in SM Advantage promos and highlights.

Dearly departed

From page E1

ly. But more than just flotsam in the wake of a departed romance, the hurt is a reminder that you can still feel, which means you can still recover. Only the wounds on a corpse never heal.

While a certain duration of grieving is to be expected (maybe even therapeutic), too much indulgence and introspection into your hurt feelings can become detrimental. I mean, look where you're at right now. You want to hurt others for holding on to the very same lottery numbers you used to possess until your boyfriend ran away with the ticket. You want to hurt your self although it doesn't sound like you should be blamed for any of this. You want to hurt him—well, I guess that's justified. But don't do anything criminal or permanent. Maybe a few random texts at four in the morning, or subscribing him to several mail-order catalogues might help ease the pain a little.

The point is, it's going to feel like your doing the dog paddle in a pool of boiling feces for a while, but you must expect and encourage yourself to think positively. And the only way this process is going to happen is by keeping busy.

If you can afford it, travel. Leave the confines of the familiar and release your anger by getting your passport stamped with foreign countries, or watching provincial festivals in the Visayas, or taking surfing lessons in Surigao. Departure is a state of mind and not a matter of miles. The less familiar your surroundings are, the better your chances of sorting this mess out, as you are free from the snares of context.

Surround yourself with support from friends and family. Most of their consolation will be repetitive and not entirely helpful. Guy friends will, with their misplaced chivalry, gallantly await your signal so they can beat your ex-boyfriend up, conveniently forgetting that most of them have broken their own share of hearts. Girlfriends will tend to dwell on the "he was a bastard anyway," or "you're too good for him," or my favorite, "now you're free!"—that last one always cracks me up as I can imagine strains of "Bayan Ko" playing in the background while this cadre of girls gets shit-faced on shots of Jose Cuervo. The bad advice and cliché attempts at raising your spirits will not stop the hurt, but it will help simply by reminding you that you do have people who want you to feel better, regardless of how silly their blogs might read.

Most important of all in this process of resurrection: Do not blame anybody. Modern civilization has conditioned us to respond in one way when things get nasty—it must be somebody's fault. Truth be told, it usually is. But on certain occasions, there is nobody at fault. Or said in a different way, assigning blame will not help. What is the use of holding somebody accountable when it will not resolve, create, or console? As you yourself had pointed out, you no longer remember why it was that he left you, because it will not change the fact that he did.

A broken heart is a bitch, one that snarls and snaps at your emotional heels for a long time. But try to be positive and keep your mind on other things as much as possible. One day, I guarantee, you'll look back at the relationship and be stronger for it. Because if you can't survive the experiences you've undertaken, then you might as well call the undertaker.

(Email the author at bohemiansamurai@yahoo.com)

Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

Fight night!

NIGHTLIFE DENIZENS HAVE been talking about an actress cum public servant and her bodyguards' involvement in a recent brawl at a Makati bar. We will not let these distractions interrupt our weekend fun. Controversies may keep us entertained temporarily, but let's get back to the serious business of partying!

Verbena: Spanish Street Party, 8 p.m. tonight

24/7 Nocturnal Navigator with flamenco's poster girl Lucy Torres-Gomez on this month's cover, celebrates ¡Fiesta! 2005. Spain reclaims the crumbling ruins of Intramuros in "Verbena," a grand street party and *paella* festival at the Puerta Real Gardens. Make your way toward the party's centerpiece: a giant *paella* good for—gasp!—500 people. With flamenco music, free-flowing wine, and fireworks, it will definitely be a magical Spanish night in the heart of Old Manila. Salud to that! Call 526-1482 to 85.

Playing Maestro Ryan @ CCP, Oct. 15 & 16

It's been called "experimental," "uninhibited," and "bold." The public has demanded that it be restaged. We're eager to see what the fuss is about and celebrate Filipino talent in the form of Ryan Cayabyab's music and Ballet Philippines' terpsichorean skills. Call 832-6011, 551-1003, or 891-5610.

Earth Moves, Oct. 18

After getting their hands dirty tree planting in Pampanga and clam seeding in Pangasinan, the 80 gorgeous delegates of Miss Earth 2005 will finally get a chance to unwind before next week's nerve-wracking Coronation Night. Join them as they sashay on the catwalk and groove to a glittering dose of '80s disco from DJ Boyet Almazan in "Earth Moves," a party no single man in Manila should miss! The shindig starts at 10 p.m. at the Hotel InterContinental Manila. Call 815-9711.

NBK's 8th Anniversary Party @ Embassy Club, Oct. 22

Club scene pioneer Natural Born Klubbers (NBK) turns 8 next Saturday. It seems like their first Paul Van Dyk gig at the now defunct Fashion Café in Glorietta was just a fortnight ago. Join DJ Manolet Dario and follow NBK DJs Ali Nepomuceno, Antz Santiago, Bombi Balquiedra, David Jacob, Jed Dario, Jon Naval, Marc Naval, Paolo Maralit and Raji Mata as they bring down the house at the Embassy Club. Call 816-4195.

7th Cinemanila International Film Festival, until Oct. 25

Cinemanila is probably the closest thing we will ever have to Cannes … minus the Hollywood movie stars and paparazzi-riddled red carpet, of course. Sixteen international films will vie for the coveted Lino Brocka award—the local equivalent of the Palme d'Or. Don't miss the exclusive premieres of "War Photographer" (a riveting documentary on the life of photojournalist James Nachtwey), Ang Lee's "Brokeback Mountain," Thomas Vinterberg's "Dear Wendy," and the Gael Garcia Bernal-starrer "The King." Catch them at the SM Cinemas, Robinson's Place Manila, and other theaters. Call 405-0315 or visit www.cinemanila.com.ph.

Other Super 24/7 events

Oct. 15, Saturday

Sugarfree, Happy Meals, Cambio and Twisted Halo at Saguijo; Dave Matthews Night at 70s Bistro; Spiritualized with DJ Pulser at Embassy Club; Soundsgood DJs at Embassy Cuisine

Oct. 16, Sunday

German jazz singer Esther Kaiser at The Podium; Pelicula: Spanish Film Festival at Greenbelt 1 Cinemas; Spanish Food Festival at Hyatt Regency Manila; Manila, My Manila Photo Exhibit at Greenbelt 3 Lobby; 150 Years of Photography in Spain at National Museum

Oct. 17, Monday

German jazz singer Esther Kaiser at RCBC Plaza; Eastwind Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar

Oct. 18, Tuesday

Mishka Adams and The Blue Echoes at 70s Bistro; Velvet Party with DJ Kimosave at Absinth

Oct. 19, Wednesday

Ethan, Bamboo and Rachel Alejandro at Dish; Barbie Almalbis at Suburbia; Karl Ty and Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine; Johnyverse and Mars Miranda at Embassy Club; Jazz Festival at Merk's

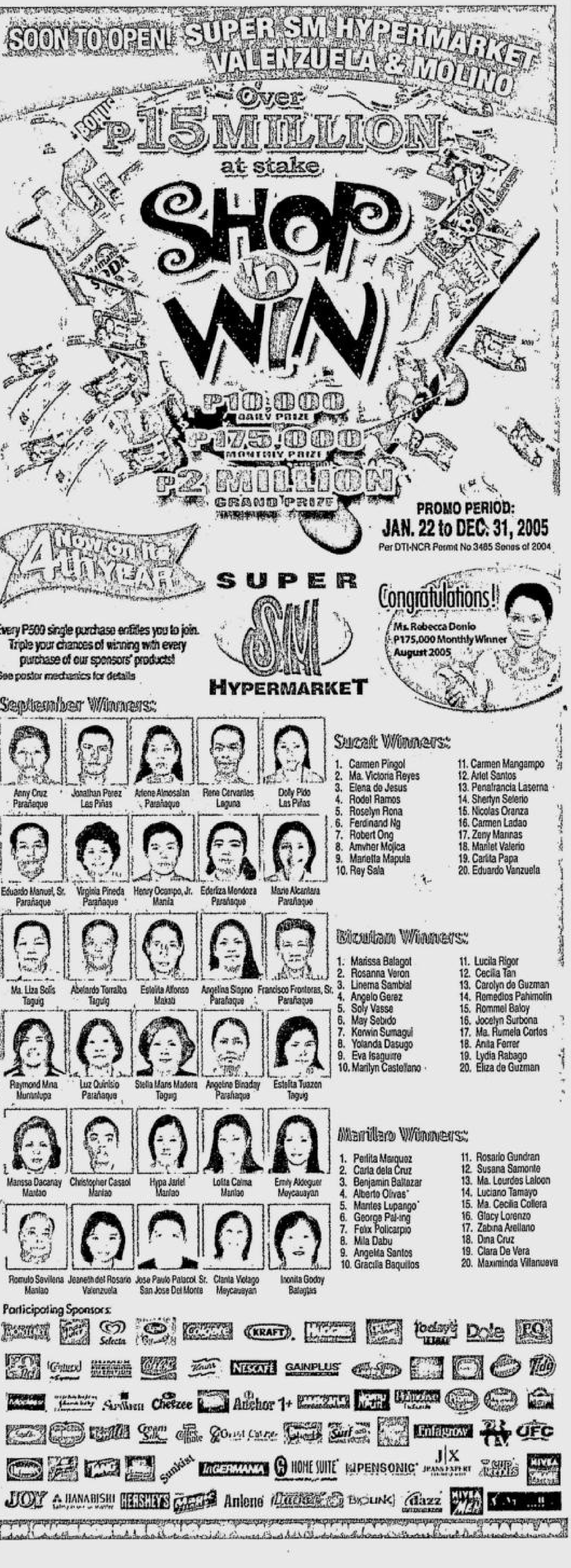
Oct. 20, Thursday

Musings of a Cigarette Smoking Man, Boldstar, Helen and Itchyworms at Saguijo; Wunjo at 70s Bistro; Silk at Suburbia

Oct. 21, Friday

HouSessions with Manolet Dario at Mezze; Kitchie Nadal at Racks El Pueblo; Mishka Adams at Wasabi; Benefit concert for landslide victims with Rockin' Revival and Flintstones and the Gang at Wack Wack Golf and Country Club;

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and an updated listing of events, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 for Globe and 209 for Smart. Log on to www.mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 Nocturnal Navigator at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules before Wednesday to e-mail address events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com.



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No 3485 Series of 2004

Every P500 single purchase entitles you to join. Triple your chances of winning with every purchase of our sponsors' products!
See poster mechanics for details

Ms. Rebecca Donio
P175,000 Monthly Winner
August 2005

September Winners:

Anny Cruz, Parañaque
Jonathan Perez, Las Piñas
Arlene Almosalan, Parañaque
Rene Cervantes, Laguna
Dolly Pido, Las Piñas
Eduardo Manuel, Sr., Parañaque
Virginia Pineda, Parañaque
Henry Ocampo, Jr., Manila
Ederliza Mendoza, Parañaque
Marie Alcantara, Parañaque
Ma. Liza Solis, Taguig
Abelardo Torralba, Taguig
Estelita Alfonso, Makati
Angelina Sispno, Parañaque
Francisco Fronteras, Sr., Parañaque
Raymond Mina, Muntinlupa
Luz Quirisio, Parañaque
Stella Maris Madera, Taguig
Angeline Binaday, Parañaque
Estelita Tuazon, Taguig
Marissa Dacanay, Manlao
Christopher Casaol, Manlao
Hypa Jarlel, Manlao
Lolita Calma, Manlao
Emily Aldeguer, Meycauayan
Romulo Savilena, Manlao
Jeaneth del Rosario, Valenzuela
Jose Paulo Palacol, Sr., San Jose Del Monte
Clarita Violago, Meycauayan
Inonita Godoy, Balagtas

Sucat Winners:

1. Carmen Pingol
2. Ma. Victoria Reyes
3. Elena de Jesus
4. Rodel Ramos
5. Roselyn Rona
6. Ferdinand Ng
7. Robert Ong
8. Amvher Mojica
9. Marietta Mapula
10. Rey Sala
11. Carmen Mangampo
12. Arlet Santos
13. Penafrancia Laserna
14. Sherlyn Selerio
15. Nicolas Oranza
16. Carmen Ladao
17. Zeny Mannas
18. Marlet Valerio
19. Carlita Papa
20. Eduardo Vanzuela

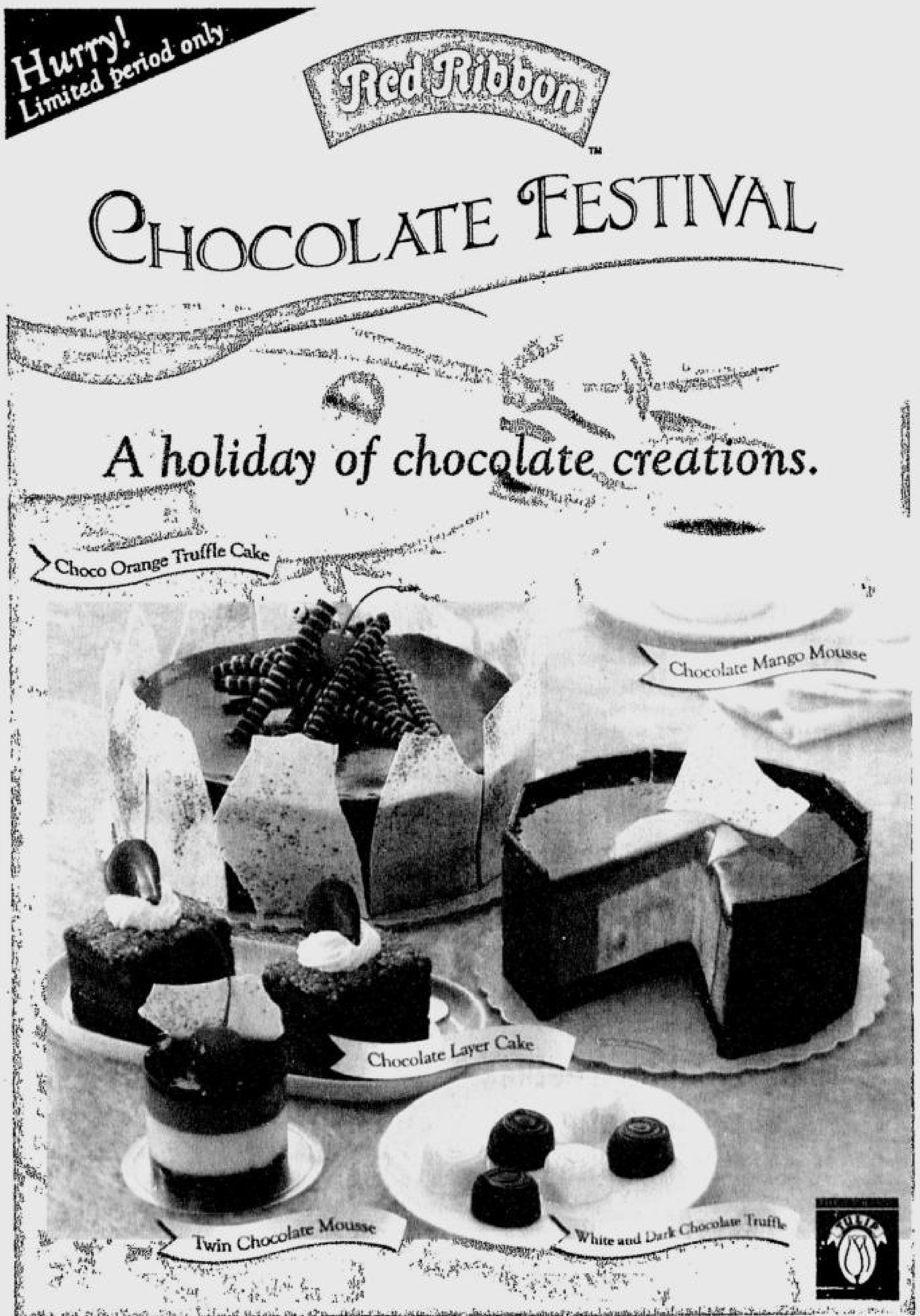
Bicutan Winners:

1. Marissa Balagot
2. Rosanna Veron
3. Linema Sambial
4. Angelo Gerez
5. Soly Vasse
6. May Sebido
7. Kerwin Sumagui
8. Yolanda Dasugo
9. Eva Isaguirre
10. Marilyn Castellano
11. Lucila Rigor
12. Cecilia Tan
13. Carolyn de Guzman
14. Remedios Pahimolin
15. Rommel Baloy
16. Jocelyn Surbona
17. Ma. Rumela Cortos
18. Anita Ferrer
19. Lydia Rabago
20. Eliza de Guzman

Marilao Winners:

1. Perlita Marquez
2. Carla dela Cruz
3. Benjamin Baltazar
4. Alberto Olivas
5. Mantes Lupango
6. George Pal-ing
7. Felix Policarpio
8. Mila Dabu
9. Angelita Santos
10. Gracila Baquilos
11. Rosario Gundran
12. Susana Samonte
13. Ma. Lourdes Laloon
14. Luciano Tamayo
15. Ma. Cecilia Collera
16. Glacy Lorenzo
17. Zabina Arellano
18. Dina Cruz
19. Clara De Vera
20. Maximinda Villanueva

Participating Sponsors:

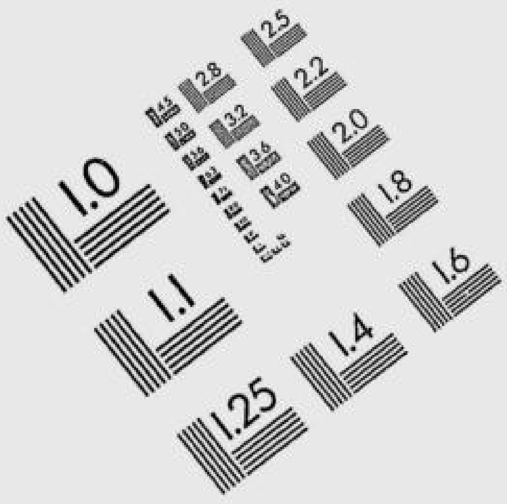

Hurry! Limited period only
Red Ribbon
CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL
A holiday of chocolate creations.
Choco Orange Truffle Cake
Chocolate Mango Mousse
Chocolate Layer Cake
Twin Chocolate Mousse
White and Dark Chocolate Truffle

Catch the Giant Chocolate Fountain
at Robinsons Place Manila
on October 15 to 16, 2005

Plus! See the 4ft. high chocolate fountain in selected Red Ribbon Bakeshop Stores

DATE	STORE	DATE	STORE
Oct. 15-18	Retiro	Oct. 17-19	Timog
Oct. 19-21	Binondo	Oct. 20-22	SM North Edsa
Oct. 22-23	Robinsons Ermita	Oct. 23-24	Congressional
Oct. 24-26	Glorietta 4	Oct. 25-27	Commonwealth
Oct. 27-29	Jupiter	Oct. 28-30	SM Fairview
Oct. 30-Nov. 1	Ayala Park Square II	Oct. 31-Nov 2	SM Megamall
Nov 02-04	Amber Shaw Blvd	Nov 03-05	Robinsons Galleria
Nov 05-07	SM Southmall	Nov 06-08	Katipunan
Nov 08-10	Festival Mall	Nov 09-11	Libis
Nov. 11-14	Alabang Town Ctr	Nov 12-14	Missouri

IMAGE EVALUATION
TEST TARGET (MT-3)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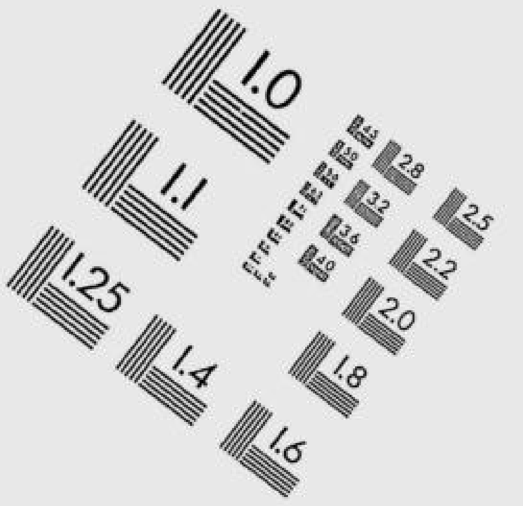
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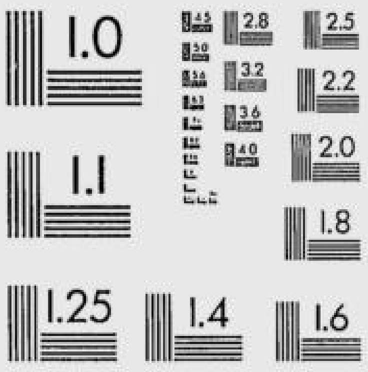
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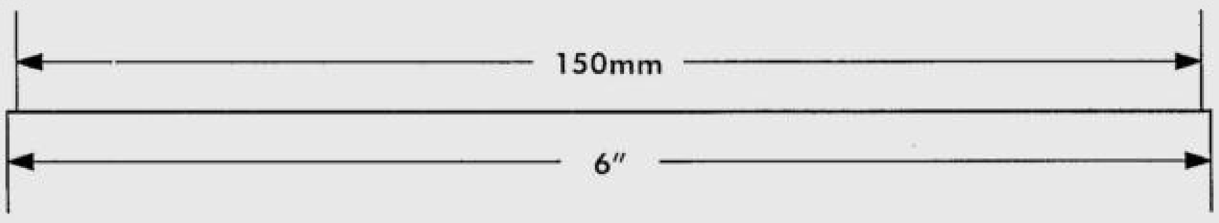

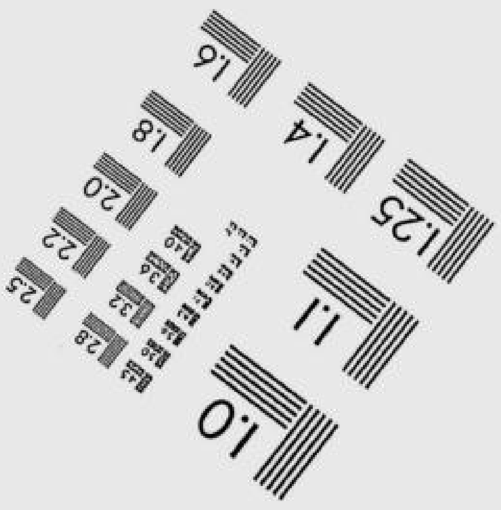
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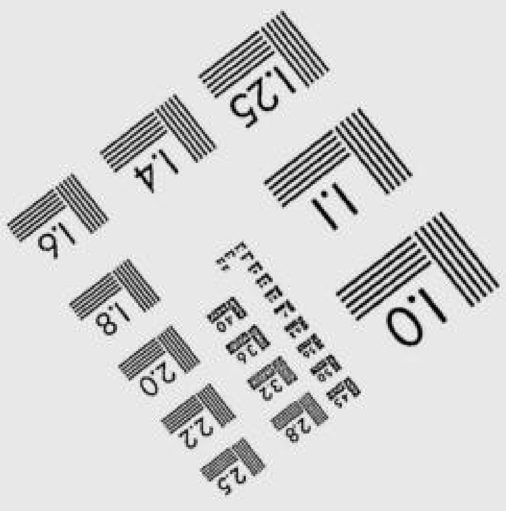
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PLEASE REWIND